

Tuesday November 5 1996

Table of exchange rates for various currencies including the US Dollar, British Pound, and others.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Advertisement for 'Très Bien' featuring a woman's face and the text 'Being a perfect mistress, by a woman who knows'.

Advertisement for 'Information overload' with the text 'When modern life gets too much'.

Advertisement for 'Labour links nursery schools to childcare' with the text 'Education'.



Plot to steal millions from cash points put UK banking system at risk



Artist's impression of John Lloyd (back row, left) with fellow defendants. Fugitive Kenneth Noye (top left).

Conservative grandees ambush Howard

Two former Tory home secretaries last night dealt a blow to Michael Howard's flagship law and order legislation in a dual attack on his "prison works" policy.

Hole in the wall gang

GLOBAL conspiracy to steal hundreds of millions of pounds from cash machines was mounted by an elite team of criminals, it emerged yesterday.

The plan was discovered when a computer expert the gang tried to recruit went to the police. The seven are: John Lloyd, aged 57, of West Kingsdown, Kent; Paul Kidd, 38, of Meeham, Kent; Graham Moore, 32, of Erith, Kent; Stephen Seton, 65, of Chislehurst, Kent; Stephen Moore, 41, of Leytonstone, East London; William Howard of Yalding, Kent; and John Maguire, 36, of Mottisingham, Kent.

How the scam would have worked 1 The gang planned to use corrupt British Telecom employees to install phone taps on lines between cash dispensers and banks.

Both were suspects in the \$2 million Brink's-Mat gold bullion robbery in 1983. It was while undercover detectives were searching Noye's Kent mansion for stolen gold that he stabbed to death Detective Constable John Fordham.

Clinton set for hollow victory as campaign ends

Democrats in desperate drive to get vote out as lead shrinks

The race tightened as undecided voters, particularly in the South, appeared to plump for the Republican, Bob Dole. The third-party candidate, Ross Perot, meanwhile exploited a modest late surge in the opinion polls to buy two hours of prime-time television last night.

The polls suggest that the hope of a Clinton landslide has been stopped in the South, where key states such as Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky are tied, or even moving into the Dole camp.

In the final days, the president has invested time and prestige in helping Democratic candidates in the congressional elections. If his party fails to regain both Houses it will be a personal setback and herald a difficult second term.

Inside Britain section header and introductory text.

World News section header and introductory text.

Finance section header and introductory text.

Sport section header and introductory text.

Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

Oxfam Tragedy in Eastern Zaire

It's here: the situation we've been warning the world about for two years has exploded. Already, one million people are fleeing the fighting. It doesn't matter whether they are Hutu, Tutsi, Zairean, or Rwandan. Starvation, thirst and disease will kill them, even if the bullets don't.

Donation form for Oxfam with fields for name, address, and amount.

Sketch

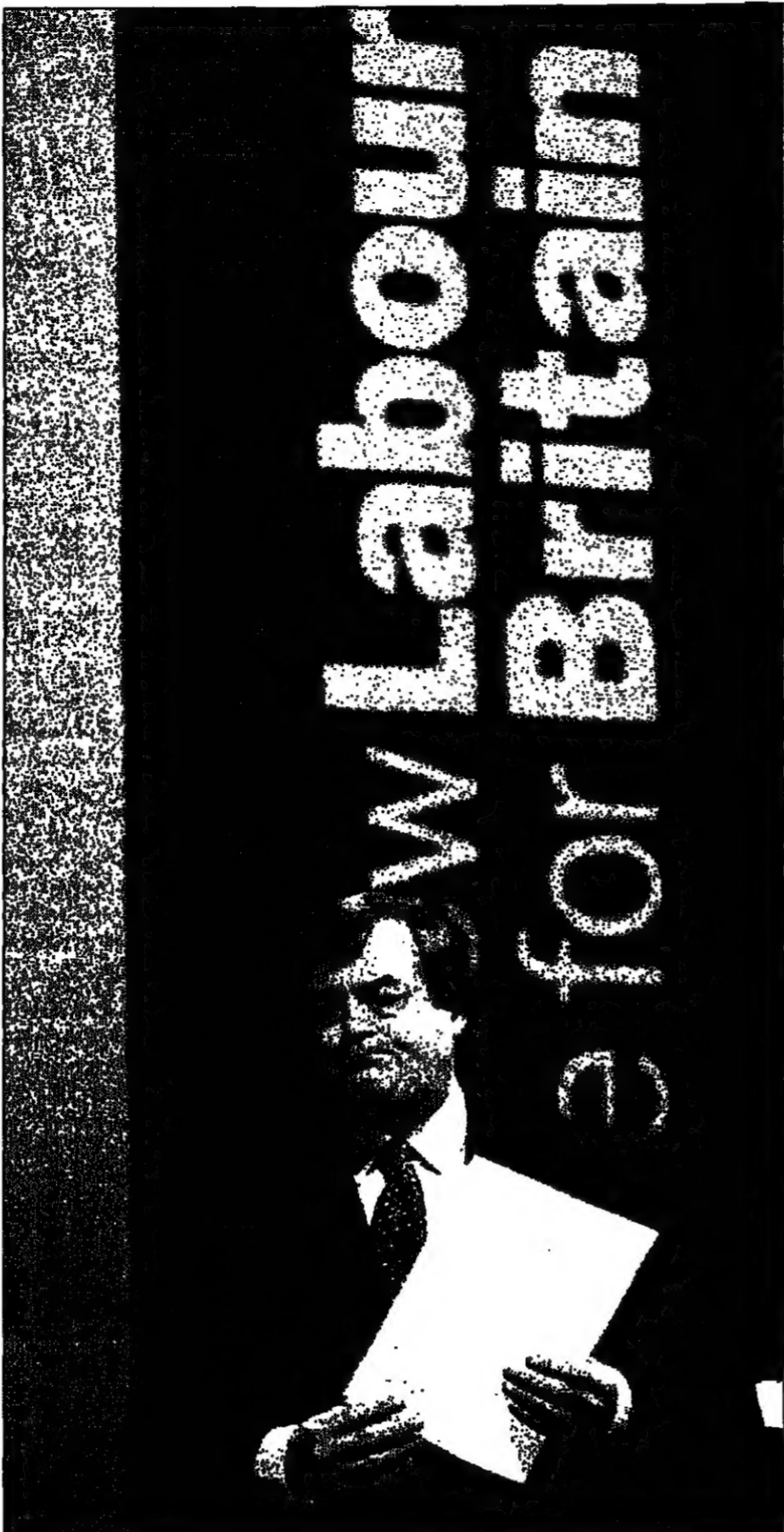
Unwise counsel that failed to keep the privy private



Simon Hoggart

HERE'S a story that tells you much of what you need to know about modern British life and society. A few late nights ago I was watching Channel 4, and caught the result of an adjudication by the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. It concerned a complaint by Ms Lynn Bryan, a Labour Party press officer, against a programme called The Mark Thomas Comedy Product. I sent off for a copy. It read: "Some weeks before the programme Mark Thomas had recorded a conversation with Ms Bryan in which he had asked her if she could find a Labour MP who would be prepared to be interviewed sitting on the toilet. "Extracts of the conversation were broadcast as a lead-in to a sketch featuring George Galloway MP being interviewed sitting on his toilet. "In the commission's view Mark Thomas had not made it clear to Ms Bryan that he was recording their telephone conversation and that part of it might be broadcast. "Although Ms Bryan was not named, she would have been identifiable to her friends and colleagues, some of whom might have wrongly concluded that Ms Bryan had arranged the interview with George Galloway MP. "The commission accordingly found that the broadcast had unwarrantably infringed her privacy. "I don't know what is most pitiful about this tale. Is it the alternative comedians (yes, there are lots of alternatives to comedy, and an embarrassing childish stunt is one) who think it would be hilarious to have an MP - even a sort of pretend MP like George Galloway - sitting on the toilet? Or is it an MP so desperate for publicity that he would

agree to be filmed while sitting on the loo? Then there is the spin doctor so desperately insecure that, even though she is not named, she feels she has to drag the whole cumbersome apparatus of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission to get revenge for an "infringement of privacy". For a spin doctor to complain about her privacy being invaded is as absurd as a boxer suing his opponent for assault. Finally, at a time when the world's greatest broadcasting system (yes, that's not just a myth, once it really was) is being systematically dismantled, haven't the great and the good got more urgent tasks than worrying about these pathetic people and their puny problems? Back in the Chamber we watched a rare victory by Mr Jack Straw over Mr Michael Howard. The Home Secretary was launching yet another crime bill, the 34th since the current government came to power. Each one, as Mr Straw pointed out, has been announced as the ultimate solution to the problem. The 1991 Act, for example, was supposed "to see us through into the next century". Yet each is now so much waste paper, like a discount pizza coupon past its redemption date. Mr Howard was also mugged, though courteously, by two of his predecessors. Mr Douglas Hurd pointed out that the policy of hanging up a large part of the population would merely create better and more accomplished burglars. This is to miss the point. When they get out, we will have a Labour home secretary, so Mr Howard will have someone else to blame. Tony "Von" Marlow rose repeatedly to demand the return of hanging and flogging. Mr Howard said that he did not wish "to go down that road". Mr Straw asked him whether he was ruling out flogging and birching. Mr Howard said: "I am happy to confirm it." Mr Straw looked very pleased. At last, there's now a chance of Labour pursuing a distinctively different policy on juvenile crime.



John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, at the announcement of yesterday's result, promptly denounced by the Tories as an 'Albanian plebiscite'

Party backs Blair agenda by landslide

Leader wins 95pc of vote

Michael White Political Editor

TONY BLAIR last night promised to do everything in his power to drive John Major from Downing Street in an early general election after a landslide vote of endorsement for his minimalist Labour's rank-and-file membership. With smiles of relief that their gamble with a mass consultation had not backfired, Mr Blair and his senior colleagues announced the ballot results before a round of cheering candidates and loyalists - leaving the Conservative chairman, Dr Brian Mawhinney, to denounce it as "an Albanian plebiscite". Final figures gave the party leadership 95 per cent of the 230,402 votes cast by ordinary Labour members on a 61 per cent ballot, and 90 per cent of those cast by 632,000 trade union members. The unions' 24 per cent turnout was respectable by the standards of some of their internal elections, though it took a life push - including telephone canvassing - to clinch the level of participation. The figures were higher than for the ballots on Clause 4 and the 1994 leadership contest. They enabled Mr Blair to claim "the party's covenant with the people, our mandate to stand as new Labour and to govern as new Labour. What the people see is what they will get." With Mr Major reduced to an overall Commons majority of one by the death on Sunday of the Tory MP Barry Porter, Mr Blair was repeatedly asked yesterday why he could not now engineer the Government's defeat. He said: "We have already made our position very clear indeed. In respect of parliamentary tactics, we will pursue any tactics that are res-



Tony Blair... hailed party 'covenant with the people'

Five key pledges

- Cutting class sizes to 30 or under for five to seven-year-olds
□ Fast track punishment for persistent young offenders
□ Cut NHS waiting lists by treating an extra 100,000 patients
□ Get 250,000 under 25-year-olds off benefit and into work
□ Set tough rules for government spending and borrowing

Table with 2 columns: Item, Value. Includes Ballot papers dispatched (380,688), Votes cast (230,402), Yes (218,023), No (11,285), Spoiled papers (1,093)

election? You have got nothing left to do." At the heart of the policy statement, sent to 360,000 members, are Mr Blair's "five early pledges" which pollsters say are key voter priorities. Yesterday he restated four more promises that a Blair government would seek to implement. Democrats also accuse Labour of producing an "extremely vague" document. Labour believes it has set out the tone and priorities of a Blair first term, and pre-empted traditional charges of "betrayal" by staging the ballot. But it has ducked specific pledges on sensitive decisions such as tax rates and British membership of the EU's single currency. Inevitably Dr Mawhinney did his best to rain on the parade. "The news that Labour Party members have voted 19 to one for the party's document proves what we have known all along: this was no true vote. It was a ludicrous charade that had more in common with an Albanian plebiscite than a democratic election," he said. Privately some Labour left-wingers endorse Dr Mawhinney's complaint that "of course the most active members of the party would support a straight 'yes' vote unquestioningly - without also accepting the Tory chairman's belief that 'it might have won Mr Blair support for his policies but it will lose him the general election'."

Review

Day trip to the romantic era

Edward Greenfield

WHATEVER they may think in Vienna or Berlin, there is no finer orchestra in Europe than the Royal Concertgebouw of Amsterdam. I have thought so many times, whether hearing them on their home ground in the Netherlands or on visits to London. It is one of the rare musical treats these days that they can organise day trips to the Barbican for Sunday afternoon concerts, making this magnificent band almost a domestic orchestra by adoption. This time the mixture was all the more compelling, when the conductor in charge was our own charismatic, if often controversial, John Eliot Gardiner. The fascination was to observe the meeting of a great traditional orchestra, justly famed for its lustrous string tone, and a conductor wedded to the new disciplines of period performance. The Gardiner's gift that his pursuit of authentic performing practice is rarely, if ever, rigid. He uses it not didactically out of strict principle but for genuinely expressive ends, and so it was here, in a programme cunningly devised to bring unexpectedly together three works that were written within three years of each other in the late 1820s, but which represent quite different approaches to the then evolving romantic movement. So Weber's overture to Oberon, written in London in

1826, evocatively romantic, was here given a reading which combined refinement and electric tensions. That led to Berlioz's scene inspired by Shakespeare, La Mort de Cléopâtre, his firebrand entry for the Prix de Rome. Striking as the piece is, this is hardly Berlioz at his finest, which made one grateful to have as soloist an artist of the calibre of the mezzo, Anne-Sofie von Otter, brightening the French text of P. A. Villard, bringing the heroine's vehement, defiant character to life, fearlessly using the widest dynamic contrasts. Interpretatively the most revealing performance came in the main work of the second half, Schubert's Great C major Symphony. It was here that Gardiner benefited most of all from his period performance techniques. The band of strings was aptly modest, 12 first violins, 10 seconds, divided left and right, and with Concertgebouw refinement and purity one had a transparency to match that of old instruments, but with none of the abrasiveness common to period performance. Characteristically, Gardiner sprang rhythms to make fast speeds seem resilient and exhilarating, never rushed, and it was revealing to find many of the notorious interpretative problems sorting themselves out, when fast speeds seemed to require few of the traditional, unmarked speed changes. One hopes to hear much more of the collaboration of John Eliot Gardiner and the Concertgebouw. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Doctors poised to operate on Yeltsin

Shift of powers to PM delayed till last minute

David Hearst in Moscow

A MEETING of Russia's top doctors last night gave the go-ahead for major heart surgery on President Boris Yeltsin, saying the lengthy preparation period had given him his best chance of surviving the operation. Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, said doctors had determined Mr Yeltsin, aged 65, was in "optimal" condition to allow the bypass operation - to improve the blood supply to his heart - to take place "in the next few days" with maximum safety. There were other signs the

operation, first announced in September, was imminent. The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexei II, urged all believers to pray for the president, and Interfax news agency said the defence minister, Igor Rodionov, had put off a planned trip to a northern naval base. The president will get as many as four bypass grafts to his coronary arteries. According to the American heart surgeon, Michael DeBakey, who flew in from Houston on Sunday to confer with Russian doctors, the main artery serving the left ventricle is severely constricted in three places, and the right coronary artery is completely blocked. Russia's leading bypass surgeon, Professor Renat Akhchurin, was yesterday officially appointed to head the Russian team which will operate on the surgery. Mr DeBakey, and three other west-

ern specialists will be on hand as consultants. All Russia, and particularly the Kremlin advisers, will now be on tenterhooks. Mr Yeltsin has left until the very last moment the issue of transferring power to his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. The decree transferring power will only be signed immediately before the president goes into the theatre. As soon as he recovers, a second decree will be signed transferring the powers back. For the period of the opera-

tion, Anstoly Chubais, the presidential chief of staff who has been accused of acting as Russia's regent, will be formally bound to serve as Chernomyrdin, who until now has been the victim of his intrigues and appointments.

Duchess: 'I was unworthy'

Kamal Ahmed

THE DUCHESS of York has admitted that she was unfit to be a member of the royal family and that the "barely veiled" hostility of Buckingham Palace courtiers hastened the end of her marriage to Prince Andrew. The duchess's claims, in part similar to those made by Diana, the Princess of Wales, have thrown more light on the power of the royal family when faced by an "unsuitable" member. The duchess, in an extract from her autobiography My Story serialised in Hello! magazine today, says she always saw herself as the "Cinderella" of the family and that pictures of her cavorting naked with John Bryan, her financial adviser, ruined any chances of cementing her role in the monarchy. "Even at my dizzy height of popularity I knew the clock would strike 12 and I'd be seen for what I was: unworthy, unattractive, unaccomplished," she says. "From early on that year [1992] Andrew and I had been discussing separation, not because we stopped caring for one another but because I had reached the end of my royal rope. "For six years I had en-



The cover of Hello! featuring extracts from My Story

dured the constant scrutiny of the British press and the barely veiled hostility of the royal household, the courtiers who ran the show. Gradually, relentlessly they had beaten me down. They were killing me by inches. The duchess says the Queen gave her a furious dressing down because of the damage the Bryan pictures did to the monarchy. "The clock was chiming, nine, 10, 11. My coach was reverting to pumpkinhood before my eyes." After she heard that the pictures were being published, she spent a sleepless night sipping steadily before the newspaper were delivered to Balmoral where the royal family was on holiday. She describes Prince Charles, the Princess Royal and Prince Edward "eyes wide and mouths ajar" flipping through the tabloid newspapers over breakfast "until they saw Andrew and stopped, as it never feels quite right to be gazing at your brother-in-law when she hasn't all her clothes on." "I had been exposed for what I truly was. Worthless. Unfit. A national disgrace." Buckingham Palace declined to comment, but Ben Pinnett, author of a recent biography of the Queen, said: "A period of silence would probably be greatly appreciated. Buckingham Palace would prefer her to vanish." The duchess's book comes as Fergie: Her Secret Life, by Allan Starkie, a former friend, is published, on Friday. The duchess attempted to have the book, which details her affairs with Mr Bryan and Steve Wyatt, the son of an American oil-titan, withdrawn but had to drop her legal action when she was asked to lodge £500,000 as security in case she lost. The duchess is reported to have debts totalling £4.6 million.

CRISIS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

YOU CAN HELP MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Over 1 million people are fleeing their camps and homes, escaping fierce fighting and intimidation. What awaits them is cholera, hunger and fear. This dreadful crisis requires both emergency relief and an urgent campaign to tackle the root causes of this disaster. The United Nations Association is actively supporting both. We need your help today to provide emergency relief through the UN. We must also campaign for a permanent regional solution, involving all the parties, which the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity have a key role in mediating. Please support UNA's campaign.



PHOTOGRAPH: SEMAIS GONJAL

Form for Central Africa Appeal. Includes fields for Name, Address, Postcode, Telephone, Expiry Date, and Signature. Text: 'I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to UNA Trust Appeals (Africa) for £25 £50 £100 £250 Other £'.

Central Africa Appeal. For instant credit card donations 0171 839 0908. Yes, I want to support the UNA appeal and campaign in Central Africa. I enclose a cheque/postal order payable to UNA Trust Appeals (Africa) for £25 £50 £100 £250 Other £. Or please debit my Visa/Access/Mastercard. Expiry Date: Signature: Please send this coupon to: Central Africa Appeal, UNA, 3 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EL. UNA-UK 81

IRA 'is rethinking the use of violence' claims Bruton

David Sharrock Ireland Correspondent

THE IRA's use of violence to remove British rule from Ireland is undergoing a "serious rethink", the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, said yesterday. Mr Bruton was not aware of an IRA convention in the

republic at the weekend, but he said: "What we do know, however, is that there is a serious rethinking going on within the republican movement. There is a realisation that violence is self-defeating. There is a sense of that within the republican movement. Twenty-five years of violence disrupted Ireland more than any external agent."



Art work

Bard on...

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page

Dealer closes gallery after Turner prize-winner defects



Turner prize-winner Rachel Whiteread (above) who is leaving art dealer Karsten Schubert for the bigger and better-known dealer Anthony d'Offay (right). Top, one of Mr d'Offay's West End galleries, where he also shows the likes of Andy Warhol and Gilbert and George



'It is a major, major thing that has happened. It is a stab in the back. Everyone is reeling from the shock'

— close associate of art dealer Karsten Schubert, on closure of his gallery



Art world rocked by 'bloody divorce'

Sarah Boseley

ONE of Britain's best respected contemporary art dealers announced he was closing down his gallery yesterday, after his leading light, Turner prize-winner Rachel Whiteread, defected to a rival.

The revelation of what one artist called the "bloody divorce" between Ms Whiteread and Karsten Schubert, who has represented her for some years, stunned the intimate world of contemporary art.

"It is a major, major thing that has happened," said a close associate of Mr Schubert. "It is a stab in the back. Everyone is reeling from the shock."

The third party in the triangle is a bigger and better-known art dealer still, Anthony d'Offay, who exhibits the likes of Andy Warhol and Gilbert and George at his West End galleries. He will now organise her exhibitions and sell her work.

Sympathy lay yesterday with Mr Schubert, who is considered to have thrown his all

into promoting Ms Whiteread's career as interest in her work grew, even though he represented some artists who began to feel they were not receiving his individual attention.

"It took up an enormous amount of Karsten's energies, working for Rachel," said another dealer. "It is often impossible when you are in that situation to do anything about it. On the one hand, she is your major card, and on the other hand it is becoming much too demanding."

Ms Whiteread, who won the Turner prize in 1993 for her sculpture House — a concrete cast of the insides of a two-up, two-down in East London — has a major retrospective exhibition at the Liverpool Tate and has designed a Holocaust Memorial for Vienna which has attracted much admiration. She is very much a player on the international stage.

The relationship between her and Mr Schubert was said to have been close and the severance highly emotional. There are suggestions that closing down the gallery was

Who sells who

Anthony d'Offay Gallery Artists include: Gilbert and George, Gerhard Richter

Lisson Gallery Artists: Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor

Marlborough Galleries Artists: RB Kitaj, Frank Auerbach

White Cube Artists: Damien Hirst, Tracy Emlin, Sarah Lucas

Waddington Galleries Artists: Antoni Tapies, Julian Schnabel, Fiona Rae

Frith Street Gallery Artists: Culum Innes, Tacta Dean

not solely a financial decision for the dealer, who represents other well-respected artists, such as Alison Wilding, Glenn Brown, Gary Hume and Zedee Jones. "People are suffering from

a huge loss of face — that such a great relationship and such great teamwork can fall apart so easily," said a colleague.

Anya Gallacio, who was represented by Mr Schubert until she left about a year ago, said most of Mr Schubert's time was taken up with Ms Whiteread, but there were plenty of other people one could deal with. "I think they had a very intense personal working relationship. He seems to have reacted very quickly. It is a bit like a bloody divorce, really, and unfortunately it's in public."

"But I'm hoping it is going to be a positive thing and that he can start again."

Martin Creed, whose show would have opened at Mr Schubert's gallery on Thursday, but will now go to the Victoria Miro Gallery in the New Year, said life was not easy for dealers, even though British contemporary art was hot news around the world.

"Britain is still a bad place for selling work — it is just to do with the conservative attitude of people. It is easier in places like Germany where

your average punter wouldn't just assume it was a load of bollocks if it was a canvas made of only one colour.

"A lot of British dealers very much like the artists. They don't all make a lot of money and they do it because they want to do it. It is more than just a financial arrangement."

Mr Schubert would not discuss the closure yesterday.

"Yes, it is true," he said, "but I can't talk to you about any of this at the moment." He intends to work as a private dealer, without his own gallery space.

A spokeswoman for Anthony d'Offay said the gallery had no comment — and was not willing to allow Ms Whiteread to be contacted either.

French call for action in Zaire spurs ill Mobutu

Chris McGreal in Gisenyi, Paul Webster in Paris and John Palmer in Brussels

PRESIDENT Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire will soon return home after finishing treatment for cancer in Switzerland, his spokesman said last night — hours after France had called for immediate international intervention in his country.

Urgent contacts began between several governments over ending the conflict in eastern Zaire, and the leader of one of the main rebel factions fighting there called a three-week ceasefire to allow aid workers to evacuate refugees.

President Mobutu's spokesman, Kabuya Lumuna, said the Zairean leader had prostrate cancer surgery in a Swiss clinic on August 22. "His therapy ended on October 30 and no further medical examinations are expected."

The president would be in France for a short while before returning home. He was tomorrow due to meet the United Nations special envoy, Raymond Christian, who was expected to fly to Nice to discuss the crisis, the UN spokeswoman, Sylvana Foa, said in New York.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced or trapped by two weeks of fighting between Zairean troops and ethnic Banyamulenge Tutsis who took up arms after being threatened with expulsion from Zaire. Rwanda is believed to be backing the Tutsi rebels.

President Jacques Chirac of France and the Spanish prime minister, Jose-Maria Aznar, were due to discuss the plan for multinational intervention at a Marseille summit last night.

France already has troops on standby who could be used to establish corridors to deliver food, tents and medical aid to a million refugees in eastern Zaire. Hundreds of tons of supplies are being held at bases in neighbouring countries.

The French medical organisation, Médecins sans Frontières, which has been forced to withdraw volunteers from the region, yesterday called

for immediate military intervention. It warned that unless rapid action was taken, thousands of refugees would die.

European Union and other western governments were last night confusedly debating their reaction to the French call. Although France appears ready to send its own forces to the region, provided the action has international backing, Belgium and some other EU governments are ready to provide only logistical support — but no ground troops — for a peacekeeping mission with a strict time limit.

Even this limited role would be conditional on any security operation having the backing of the UN, Zaire, Rwanda and the Organisation of African Unity.

The French announcement came as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, and the European Commissioner, Emma Bonino, threw their weight behind the idea of protected corridors down which the refugees could return home to Rwanda, as opposed to setting up safe zones in Zaire.

East African leaders are due to meet in Nairobi today to discuss the crisis, but Zaire has said it will not attend until Rwandan troops are withdrawn from its soil.

Laurent Kabila, leader of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire, which has seized swaths of territory in eastern Zaire under Uvira, said he had called yesterday's ceasefire to allow aid workers to evacuate the refugees.

"Those who are opposed to going back to their country will be taken in charge by the international community for special assistance," he said, apparently referring to members of the defeated Rwandan army and Hutu militias who fled into Zaire after leading the genocide two years ago in which 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus died.

"We will give [the aid agencies] security so that they can land and use the airport at Kilimba, close to Uvira, as well as in Goma, which is completely under our control," Mr Kabila said. But he warned fighting would resume if Zaire failed to respect the ceasefire.

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Bard on speed storms US

Ian Katz in New York

THE ACTION takes place in a violent, savagely violent seaside town called Verona Beach. The Capulets and the Montagues are rival street gangs who pick up snacks at a hot-dog stand called Rosencrantz. The star-crossed lovers meet at a campy disco.

This is Romeo and Juliet Nineties-style, and it is the toast of Hollywood. Baz Luhrmann's romantic reworking of the world's most famous love story, dubbed variously Natural Born Lovers and Shakespeare on Speed, has stunned studio bosses by roaring to the top of the US box office rankings.

With the help of a blistering rock soundtrack and MTV-style editing, the Bard beats the competition to gross \$116 million on its first weekend of release. "Love is alive," chimed Tom Sherak, a senior executive of 20th Century Fox,



which released the film by the Australian director of Strictly Ballroom. "Shakespeare's still No. 1 after 400 years." Indeed it is difficult to visit an American cinema at the moment without running into him. As well as Mr Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet, Trevor Nunn's Twelfth Night is playing to good reviews while Al Pa-

olno is still packing them in for his riff on Richard III, Looking For Richard.

At the same time, a recently discovered 1912 screen version of Richard III, the oldest American feature film in existence, is beginning a limited release, while Kenneth Branagh's Hamlet opens at Christmas.

In Hollywood, which last year enjoyed a lucrative infatuation with Jane Austen, the talk is all of the Bard's "fresh relevance" and "enduring appeal."

"When you get to a time of change — moving toward the millennium — people start to interpret classic texts again," said Mr Luhrmann, 33. "They start to look for those things that have a universal centre. And they say, 'What does it mean to us now?'"

Conservative grandees ambush Howard

continued from page 1

told Mr Howard bluntly that detection and arrest were more compelling factors than sentencing when a criminal considered whether to commit further offences. He warned that the introduction of automatic life sentences for repeat rapist and violent offenders could create more killers who felt they had nothing to lose.

Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, responded last night: "Michael Howard is now in serious trouble on parts of this bill. Kenneth Baker and Douglas Hurd carry a great deal of weight within the Tory Party. For them to come out in criticism of this bill close to the election speaks volumes for the weakness of Mr Howard's case inside the Tory Party."

Labour last night obtained in the Commons second reading of the Crime (Sentences) Bill with only the Liberal Democrats voting against.



Meet Suzanne.

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Suzanne isn't just a good hairdresser, she's also got a very good business head on her shoulders.

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So she asked Midland for one of their starter packs. The video included the general experiences of people who have recently started their own businesses and the whole package gave her a thorough insight into just what's involved.

Helpful as it was, it didn't solve her immediate problem — finding some original 1950s barber chairs, which according to Suzanne, are "all-the-rage".

Advertisement for 'Starting Your Business' starter pack, featuring a video box set and contact information: 0345 40 41 42 for a starter pack.

Advertisement for a buffet restaurant: 'Always ask a waiter to make a selection from a buffet for you — it's inelegant to collect your own food. Never be seen in an apron. Always listen to your lover's sexual fantasies. Never let a man's generosity towards you falter. Serve Iranian Gold caviar when you can... Escaping suppression, Bienvenida style'

G2 page 12/13

Midland The Listening Bank advertisement with a form to request 'Starting Your Business' starter pack. Includes fields for name, address, town, county, postcode, and telephone number. Also includes a 'Member HSBC Group' logo and a 'GUARD 5/11' reference.

Identification 'inconsistencies' after embassy attack

Woman on bomb charge cleared

Richard Norton-Taylor

AN OLD Bailey judge will today direct a jury to acquit a Palestinian woman who is charged with planting the car bomb that exploded outside the Israeli embassy in London in July 1994.

In a dramatic development in the month-old trial, Mr Justice Garland pointed to "serious inconsistencies" in identification evidence against Nadia Zekra, aged 48, who was arrested six months after the bombing and after a surveillance operation by the police and MI5.

"It would be dangerous in the extreme to place this case against Mrs Zekra before a jury," the judge said. "I have no hesitation whatsoever in withdrawing the case."

Outside the court Mrs Zekra, of Kensington, west London, who has two children and is university-educated, expressed her relief. "I'm innocent," she added. "I knew nothing about what they were talking about."

She spent nearly five months in Holloway prison before being released on bail. Neil O'May, her solicitor, said: "It was incredible that the case against her was not stopped earlier."

The judge made the ruling

after Helena Kennedy QC, Mrs Zekra's counsel, pointed to contradictory evidence on the bomber's appearance given by Constable Ian Duncan of the police diplomatic protection branch, who was outside the embassy at the time, and David Goran, an Israeli embassy security guard.

Mr Duncan described the suspect as a woman between 5ft 7in and 5ft 10in tall and of substantial build. Mrs Zekra, of slight build, was shown in court to be 5ft 11in.

To place this case before jury 'would be dangerous in the extreme'

Mr Goran described the suspect as a woman in her sixties with wavy grey hair and, in the judge's words, "a wrinkled face like an old woman".

Both men had seen the bomber only fleetingly. The identification parade was six months later. "The observation was too brief and the gap too long," said Ms Kennedy.

The judge noted: "The parade was made up with ladies hastily recruited from Harrods, and because they were

wearing uniforms they had to put on coats and sit down."

Mr Duncan told the court he was approached by a woman who had parked an Audi car near the embassy. She said she had a present for someone. She had a Harrods bag and said she had been asked to return in five minutes. Within 10 minutes the car exploded.

Ms Kennedy referred yesterday to an entirely "innocent association" between one of Mrs Zekra's sons and another defendant, Jawad Botmeh, aged 28, of Bloomsbury, central London.

Mr Botmeh, Mahmoud Abu-Wardeh, aged 25, of Putney, south London, and Samar Alami, aged 30, of South Kensington, have pleaded not guilty to conspiring to cause explosions.

Earlier, Detective Superintendent Bill Emerton said there was "an intelligence vacuum" surrounding the bombing, which took place shortly after an attack on a Jewish target in Argentina.

The embassy bomb exploded just after midday on July 26, 1994. The court has heard that it caused damage estimated at £5 million. The next night a bomb exploded outside offices of the Jewish Philanthropic Organisation for Israel and the Middle East in Finchley, north London.



Nadia Zekra... Spent nearly five months in Holloway jail. 'I'm innocent. I knew nothing about what they were talking about' PHOTOGRAPH BY GRAHAM TURNER

Action urged over danger fireworks

Pressure mounts on Government after two men killed in accidents

Stuart Miller

THE Government yesterday came under renewed pressure for a review of fireworks legislation amid growing public fears over safety.

After two men died and another was seriously injured in three accidents over the weekend, politicians and campaigners demanded action to stem the import of dangerous fireworks.

Import controls on fireworks were lifted in 1993. Since then fireworks injuries have risen from 1,000 a year to 1,500.

Mike Hanson, head of trading standards at Barnsley

council, said there was evidence that more dangerous fireworks were being sold because there was no proper licensing system. "It is time to look at whether a new system should be put in place."

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said: "These latest tragic incidents underline the folly of government deregulation. Against the advice of safety experts, the fireworks industry and trading standards officers, the Department of Trade and Industry swept away import rules that required specific licences for imported fireworks.

Meanwhile, it emerged that the managing director of one of the country's biggest suppliers of display fireworks resigned from an industry

working party after members, including representatives from the Health and Safety Executive, refused to consider the introduction of training for display organisers. Bill Decker, who runs Pains Fireworks in Wiltshire, said he had been disgusted by the attitudes of members.

The revelation came as lessons resumed at Hazlemere primary school, in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. David Hattersley, the head teacher, was killed on Friday when a mortar-style firework exploded in his face.

Denise Timcke, who was in New York when her husband, Steven, was killed by a Chinese firework in front of his two young sons, returned home to Kent yesterday.

Richard Norton, aged 39, was yesterday in hospital in Wiltshire after being hit by a firework.

Disabled 'losers in share deal'

Halifax and Alliance & Leicester bonus plans 'are discrimination'

Stuart Miller

THOUSANDS of severely disabled savers will not receive bonus shares from building societies converting to banks under deals which campaigners say may be illegal.

Eligible members of the Halifax, and the Alliance & Leicester, will receive a £13 billion share hand-out when the societies are floated next year. Savers can expect about £1,000 each.

Under the societies' plans, bonus shares will only be made available to the first-named investor on each account. Each investor will receive only one set of shares,

regardless of how many accounts they hold.

But disability rights groups yesterday accused the societies of illegally discriminating against severely disabled customers who rely on other people to administer their accounts. In many of those cases, the carer is the first-named investor. Where a carer also has a personal account with the same society, only one set of shares will be paid out.

Severely disabled people living in residential homes where one member of staff runs the accounts of all residents will be the worst affected. Some local authorities fear they may be liable to charges of financial misman-

agement. Tom Clarke, shadow minister for the disabled, said yesterday the schemes could be illegal under the Disability Discrimination Act which becomes law next month.

"I am disappointed that both the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax appear to be ready to ignore the interests of many of their disabled customers. It is time that the building societies put a little more effort into ensuring that honest investors get their fair dues."

Alastair Burt, the disability minister, told Mr Clarke: "The payment of bonus shares being made only once to each named member... may well result in discrimination... in that a disabled person may not receive the benefits of membership in the same way as a non-disabled person."

John Boyle, the manager of the Birmingham House residential home in Birmingham, said his staff controlled the Halifax and Alliance & Leicester accounts of 29 residents. "These people have held their accounts for over eight years but they will only receive one set of shares between them. The only thing they have done wrong is not being able to look after their own money."

Gary Marsh, the Halifax's head of corporate affairs, said: "The share distribution scheme is the fairest we could provide under the terms of current legislation." The Alliance & Leicester, said: "Of course it appears unfair to some people. But any other scheme would not have been advantageous in the long run, and the directors have a duty to return to members as much money as they can."

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Parents brand building society treatment of handicapped son a 'disgrace'

MATTHEW Ward should have relished the dash by building societies to convert to banks, writes Stuart Miller. At 23, with severe mental disabilities, he should have gained £2,000 in bonus shares from his savings accounts with the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax. Instead, he will get just a fraction of that.

His parents, Ray and Hazel, from St Albans, Hertfordshire, opened an A&L account for him in 1990, and over the years around £500 went into it. Originally it was in Matthew's name, but last year his mother became the named investor after a wrangle over tax on savings interest.

"We didn't think anything about it," Mr Ward said yesterday. "They shut one account and opened the other the same day so we thought it would be the same. Then we found that Matthew would not qualify for bonus shares, and we would only receive one set because his mother also has an account there."

The second blow came when the family discovered Matthew would not receive bonus shares on his Halifax account. It is administered by the manager of the residential home in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire, where he lives.

Matthew Ward, disabled loser in 'dash for cash', and his mother Hazel PHOTOGRAPH BY TOM JENKINS

"Again he loses because the manager also runs accounts for other people in the hostel, so they will only get one set of shares between them."

Mr Ward said the money would have been used to send Matthew on holiday which, with carers' pay, can cost £1,000 for five days in Britain. He said the building societies' treatment of the severely disabled was disgraceful. "They cannot exercise any choice over how their accounts are run, so the building societies have exercised choice for them without discussing it — with the result that they have been completely disenfranchised from the bonus share offer."

He dismissed claims that it would be impossible for the societies to identify disabled account holders. "All they have to do is place advertisements asking them to take their pension books into their branch. That way the onus is on the carer to make sure the person gets the money they are entitled to. But the societies have chosen not to because they are too concerned with cutting costs."

Father and son could face huge bill after fight forced airliner to divert

A FATHER and son who forced a holiday flight from Tenerife to Birmingham to divert to Portugal after a mid-air brawl could face a bill of thousands of pounds from the airline.

The father, identified only as Mr Rogers, aged in his 60s and from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was expected to leave Lisbon with his son yesterday evening after being ejected from the Boeing 757 late on Friday night.

The Airtours charter flight 586, carrying about 200 holidaymakers, was one hour into its four-and-a-half hour journey when the pilot decided to divert to Lisbon because of the fight on board.

Mr Rogers, his wife and son, aged in his 30s, and another man in his late 20s, were removed from the aircraft when Portuguese police met the plane at Lisbon airport. Father and son were questioned and released without charge.

The flight, which had to burn off hundreds of gallons of fuel so it could land, continued its journey but was delayed by more than four hours.

A spokesman for Airtours said yesterday that no other passenger was involved in the brawl, which was described as "domestic". Alcohol was believed to have played a part.

The spokesman added: "We are looking at the possibility of bringing a civil case against these men for the cost of diverting the flight."

"This was a very serious incident. A pilot will not make that sort of diversion unless the situation is of a very serious nature and he believes the safety of other passengers, his crew and the aircraft itself is at risk."

"The plane would have had to burn off a lot of fuel to enable it to land safely and then there is the landing and handling costs in Portugal." The costs could run into thousands of pounds, the spokesman said. "Obviously these people did not think of that when they decided to start their fight."

Airtours told Mrs Rogers and the family friend they would have to find their own way home from Portugal. They arrived in Britain on Sunday on a British Airways flight.

Mr Rogers and his son contacted the British embassy who helped them arrange for money to be sent to pay for their flights home. A spokesman for the embassy said he believed they were returning yesterday evening.

In an unrelated incident, the family's baggage is believed to have been impounded at Gatwick airport. Customs officials yesterday refused to confirm reports that the bags contained no clothes or souvenirs, just alcohol and tobacco far exceeding the legal limit for duty-free goods.

How M

Aspiring M

Young

And this

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The man accused of taking part in a plot to cripple the banking system has found business and crime lucrative. Christopher Elliott reports

How Noye cashed in on twin careers



Kenneth Noye in 1985, when he was acquitted of murdering a policeman and was jailed for the Brink's Mat robbery

WHILE old villains cash in on their notoriety with book and film deals, Kenneth Noye is still out there doing it — allegedly.

Since he was acquitted of the murder in 1985 of Detective Constable Kenneth Fordham, the undercover policeman whom he stabbed in the grounds of his Kent home believing him to be an intruder, Noye has slipped effortlessly into the role of public enemy No 1.

He was born the son of a GPO general manager and a greyhound stadium manager. After he left school he worked as a driver pursuing a parallel criminal career in which he acquired a record for stealing cars and shoplifting.

His business sense was keen. He bought his own lorry, then a fleet, then a yard. He sold a third of it for the price he had paid for the whole lot.

He then sustained his twin careers in a series of property and jewellery deals, some legitimate, some not; all were lucrative.

His wife Brenda, the mother of his two children, is as loyal after 26 years of marriage as she ever was, despite a series of revelations about her husband's business and private lives involving mistresses and crime.

The couple bought a luxurious home in Kent "where the children could grow up without roaming the streets and sniffing glue" according to Brenda, who still lives in a £800,000 house in Kent. Noye also became a freemason, and was never slow to try the handshake out on detectives he met.

After the Brink's Mat raid in 1983, Noye came under sus-



Detective Constable Kenneth Fordham, above, whom Noye admitted stabbing to death, and right, detectives on the Brink's Mat case look for fingerprints



Police in the USA and Britain became interested in Noye, now aged 52, and he began to feature in their surveillance logs.

Then came a fresh twist when he was named in connection with the murder of Stephen Cameron, a 21-year-old electrician who had apparently been the victim of a road rage attack in May this year. Noye was identified as someone Kent police wanted to interview in connection with the killing.

Mr Cameron was driving his fiancée, Danielle Cable, in a van on an A23 slip road in Kent when an L-registered Land Rover Discovery swerved in front of it. The vehicles stopped and an argument began with the driver of the Land Rover, described as aged between 30 and 50. The older man produced a knife

and stabbed Mr Cameron to death before driving off.

A month later Noye's name leaked out in the press as being a suspect. Police confirmed they wanted to speak to him in connection with the killing and appealed for Noye to come forward. He has not.

Since then police have followed up reports that he has fled to Northern Cyprus, Marbella, Tenerife and most recently St Petersburg.

There have been persistent reports that he has returned to Britain on a number of occasions, at least once to see his alleged mistress, Sue McNicol-Duch.

Three months ago his wife told the Daily Mail: "I have no idea where he is and I don't want to know. As far as I am concerned he is better off out of it. My husband is an innocent man."

Aspiring MP stole cash to support image

DAVID Hurst stole £31,000 from his local party to bolster his image as Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Bath by moving to a better flat and buying smarter clothes, a court heard yesterday.

In his role as party treasurer he signed cheques to himself and forged the signature of another party officer to transfer money to his own account on 42 occasions.

Yesterday he sat with his head bowed throughout the hearing at Bristol crown court as Judge Colin Willis jailed him for 15 months.

He told him: "This was a gross breach of trust continued over a considerable

period of time." Prosecutor Martin Pictou said a total of £31,014 had been siphoned off.

Hurst, aged 35, of Bath, had admitted four specimen charges of forgery asking for 38 other offences to be considered.

A self-employed book-keeper, Hurst was made treasurer of the city's Labour Party in 1992. He rose through the ranks and was chosen to fight

Bath in July 1995.

But two months later he resigned from both positions after he was exposed for claiming dole and housing benefits for four years while working. He was arrested in June after an inquiry by local party officers found more than £30,000 missing from constituency funds.

Neil Ford, defending, said Hurst began forging cheques

when he found himself in debt. The fraud, he said, coincided with Hurst's political ascent.

"It was all done to pay off his debts and rather pathetically support the image," he said, "to live up to their expectations."

Hurst moved into Marlborough Buildings overlooking a park in one of the salubrious districts of Bath where his earnings did not even cover the rent. The court was told he spent thousands of pounds on the flat.

In desperation he resorted to gambling in an attempt to win the stolen money back.

He would have faced a near-impossible task in Bath, a seat won by the Liberal Democrat, Don Foster, from the former Tory party chairman Chris Patten at the last election. Labour had only 4,102 votes, less than 8 per cent of the total.

Cell death man 'beaten'

Inquest told that body of robbery suspect was unrecognisable

THE twin sister of a man found dead in a police cell claimed yesterday that he had been assaulted by police officers after being arrested on a robbery charge.

Stephanie Lightfoot-Bennett told an inquest in Manchester: "I was horrified by the condition of his body. I didn't recognise him at all."

Leon Patterson, a heroin addict and prison absconder from north London, died four years ago while being held in police cells in Denton, Greater Manchester, because of the shortage of prison accommodation following the Strangeways prison riot.

The inquest is the third to

be opened on Mr Patterson. The first, in February 1993, was halted when it was discovered that a juror was married to a local police officer.

The jury at the second, held in April 1993, returned a verdict of unlawful killing which was then quashed by the High Court in 1994.

The hearing is being monitored by Inquest, a campaign group concerned with deaths in custody and the inquest system.

Ms Lightfoot-Bennett claimed that Mr Patterson, aged 32, had been assaulted by police officers who had neglected the fact he was seriously ill.

She saw bruises on his face when she went to identify him at a hospital.

"I said to them, 'You've brought the wrong body'. It was clear that apart from the injuries he had been seriously ill for a period of time.

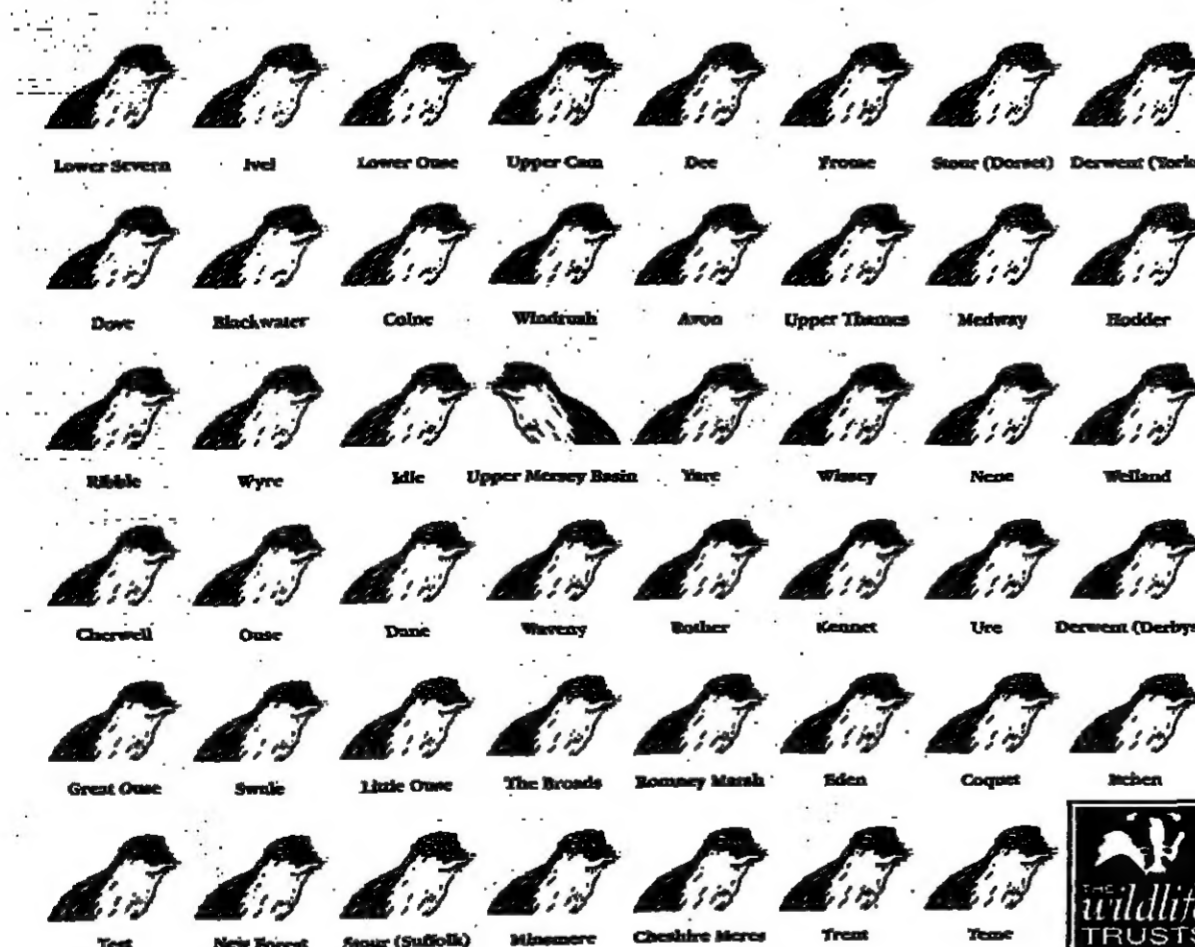
"The police inspector kept telling me the injuries were self-inflicted. He kept saying he had done them to himself."

"I thought it was insensitive he should be saying this while I was trying to identify my twin brother."

Having given the jury details of the previous inquests, the coroner, Leonard Gorodkin, said he would be calling medical experts to try to discover a possible cause of death. The second hearing had been told the cause was "unascertainable".

Mr Patterson's family have made an official complaint over his treatment in custody, and the results of a Police Complaints Authority investigation have been made available to the coroner.

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There are 47 Wildlife Trusts, working locally to ensure a national future for all Britain's wildlife.

Union hopes for early end to Ridings school strike

PROSPECTS for a peaceful reopening of the Ridings school in Halifax improved yesterday, when the union leader at the centre of strike action against disruptive pupils promised to co-operate to make the school a success.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said he would be seeking to develop a positive relationship with the new head, Peter Clark, in the hope the strike could be lifted when children return tomorrow.

Although Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, is expected to deliver a damning report to the governors today, it appears unlikely that the Government will send in a "hit squad" to take over management from Calderdale local education authority.

However, little progress was made yesterday at Manton junior school in Workson, Nottinghamshire, which closed last week in response to a NAS-UWT strike over the alleged behaviour of a 10-year-old boy.

"We are digging in for a long fight," Mr de Gruchy said after the governors decided not to change a decision against expelling the boy. There was little hope of progress unless the boy's mother decided to withdraw him or the Government intervened.

A disruptive pupil on trial placement at Yardleys school in Birmingham attacked a boy of 13 in the playground with a piece of wood, breaking his arm. The city's education department is to investigate the attack and circumstances of the boy's transfer to a mainstream school.

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US ELECTIONS: Counting the cost of a last-minute slump

Clinton faces a hostile Congress

The Washington Post

David Broder

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton faces the prospect of starting a second term with a Republican Congress little changed in composition from the one he has fought against for two years...

And enough of the 70 House Republican freshmen who swept Democrats out of power in 1994 are winning reelection battles to give the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, a second chance.

The White House, which had masterfully controlled the political news agenda, lost the battle just as Mr Clinton launched his closing drive.

beginning to chip away. A senior Democrat quipped: "God intended for this election to be held October 29, not November 5."

Florida and its 25 electoral votes. The president has made inroads in the Hispanic community and through the Medicare issue which affects the huge retired population.

"Dole has been an unacceptable option for close to two-thirds of the people all along," one analyst said.

jected Mr Clinton falling just short of 50 per cent, with Mr Dole about 11 points back and Perot, Nader and the minor parties drawing in the mid-teens.

good as Republican chances in Arkansas, Georgia and Louisiana. If the Senate ratio shifts much, it is likely to be toward the Republicans.

'God intended for this election to be held October 29 not November 5', quipped one Democrat as it became clear that Clinton's support was chipping away



President Bill Clinton, silhouetted by stage lights, rallies the faithful in Union, New Jersey

Bill's new campaign: for immortality

Comment

Maureen Dowd

BILL CLINTON is not worried about Bob Dole lurching around the clock from bowling alleys to dinners, looking for even fewer people at stranger hours.

social climbs and plays the Hollywood groupie, so he is the only president who feels the need to dramatise his job description.

in a way that has more than doubled the life expectancy for people with HIV and AIDS in only four years.

hands. After an El Paso rally, he was so eager to get close to the faithful that he stepped forward, inside the bottom rope.

Poll snapshots

Greasy polls shrink the gap

A REUTER poll has Bob Dole only 3.5 percentage points behind Bill Clinton, and Ross Perot a whopping 36.5 points behind the president.

campaign," says Mr Dole to 12 supporters at a campaign stop in Kentucky at 8am.

The oracles speak

IN AN on-the-spot survey of 12 top political commentators, 11 are of the opinion that Mr Clinton will take the presidency.

War-time Doledrums

"THIS is another sign of the incredible momentum in this

Local landslide for Bob

One town rallies round to ease the pain of defeat for a native son, writes Jonathan Freedland in Russell, Kansas

NO DOUBT who has won the election in Russell, Kansas. It's Bob Dole by a landslide.

Bob tells you a piss-ant can pull a freight train, you better hitch it up, 'cause it's gonna happen."

and the Russell wisdom said he would die within the year. But, in a gesture which has become Dole folklore, the townspeople put out cigar boxes and collected \$1,000 in nickels and dimes to pay for his medical treatment.

as the embodiment of the town. When he spoke at the Republican convention in San Diego about an America of "tranquillity, faith and confidence in action", it was Russell he had in mind.

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Finance Guardian

'Sex bribe for taxman led to love'

Financial staff

A FORMER prostitute yesterday told the Old Bailey how sex at £200-a-night with tax investigator Michael Alcock developed into a romance. "We were in love, planning a future together," said 30-year-old Michelle Corrigan. She had not asked Mr Alcock what he did for a living "because we were too busy having a good time. I could see he was a wealthy man, taking me to nice places and buying me lovely things."



'In love'... Michelle Corrigan arrives at the Old Bailey to tell of her relationship with taxman Michael Alcock

The couple regularly booked into room 69 of a West End hotel and holidayed in Spain, she said. The prosecution alleges that Mr Alcock's first sex session with Miss Corrigan was paid for by Iraq-born oil consultant Hisham Alwan, who later paid eight hotel bills for the couple. In return, the prosecution says, Mr Alwan did not have to pay a £120,000 tax bill. Mr Alwan was one of several wealthy businessmen under investigation who

bribed Mr Alcock with luxury holidays, cash and other gifts in return for favours, the prosecution alleges. Mr Alcock, from Colchester, Essex, denies 13 charges of corruption from 1987 to 1992. Miss Corrigan said she was having sex with Mr Alwan for about £500 a time after being given his number by a man in Essex she named as the publisher, David Sullivan. She met Mr Sullivan while modelling for men's magazines and advertising. "I met a number of photographers. Through them I met David Sullivan," she said. He had asked if she was interested in escort work and gave her Mr Alwan's number. After several dates for which she was paid every time, Mr Alwan asked her to meet a friend to whom "he owed a favour". Mr Alwan had introduced her to Mr Alcock, and gave her an envelope. "I had a quick

look in it. It was £200 in cash," Miss Corrigan said. They talked for half an hour and then had sex, she said. They continued to meet for six or seven months, with Mr Alcock paying her each time. "Sometimes it was £200, sometimes more." Their relationship gradually changed, she said. Mr Alcock told her he wanted to see her more often and stop seeing other people. "I was falling in love with him," she said. They went on holiday to Marbella and Majorca. The prosecution alleges that the villas they stayed in were supplied by wealthy individuals whom Mr Alcock was investigating, although the taxman paid the fares. Mr Alcock paid £1,500 rent on her flat in Portmouth, paid off her credit card bill for £1,000 and bought her a £675 watch and designer clothes, shoes

Notebook Murdoch may drop Sky pilot



Edited by Alex Brummer

SPECULATION that MCI will cut its stake in American Sky Broadcasting as a result of its merger with British Telecom sheds light on recent events within Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation empire. Mr Murdoch sits on the board of MCI - which owns shares in his group - and will have been aware of talks with BT and the potential repercussions. This increasingly looks like the reason for News Corporation's decision to mortgage its 40 per cent shareholding in British Sky Broadcasting in order to raise \$1 billion through the issue of convertible preference shares. If MCI contributes less to ASB - for it and News Corp jointly bid \$200 million last January - then the Murdoch group will have to fund more. But the manoeuvre may have increased tensions between Mr Murdoch and his right-hand man in London, Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB. Relations were already under stress because Mr Murdoch wanted to merge BSkyB's news service with that of his American broadcaster, Fox, in order to challenge Ted Turner's CNN service.

But Mr Chisholm now runs a company whose market capitalisation is larger than that of Murdoch's News Corporation. Andrew Neill's recent autobiography claimed that Murdoch sacked him because the Australian-born magnate was jealous of Mr Neill's fame. BSkyB's share price would certainly suffer if Mr Chisholm were to depart. But it is a risk Murdoch might be prepared to run to curtail the ambitions of a pretender.

Dollar flip

THE Clinton presidency has brought an end to two long-running G7 complaints about the way in which the US runs its economy. During Mr Clinton's tenure at the White House the budget deficit was cut in half and the cheap dollar policy reversed. So the impact of today's elections on these two issues will be of concern to G7 finance ministers and central bankers. On the budget deficit, the best result for the markets would be the expected Clinton victory in the presidential race and Republican control over both houses of Congress. Despite the general Republican sympathies of Wall Street and Robert Dole's lifelong credentials as a budget-cutter, the latter's decision to buy into Reaganite supply-side tax cuts as a means of wooing the electorate has been a worry throughout the campaign. Calculations by Harvard economist Benjamin Friedman show that if the Dole-Kemp ticket were to triumph then the cost to the US exchequer in terms of revenues would be \$548 billion in the years 1997-2002. All pretence of a balanced budget by 2002 would have to be abandoned. However, a Clinton victory would mean that the tax cuts proposed will be relatively modest and generally paid for, and that the Gingrich-controlled House of Representatives would remain determined to reinforce the most durable aspect of its contract with America - the budget-reduction plan. The dollar issue is more tricky. The pressure which has turned the dollar around since April 1995 was entirely international. Since the G7 determined that the dollar was too cheap, it has climbed 34 per cent against the Japanese yen and some 10 per cent against the German mark. Now Clinton administration officials chart the mantra that a strong dollar is good for the American public and will mean stronger real incomes. But, with the election out of the way, will the Clinton team feel it must pander to its G7 allies any longer? As European growth picks up, there is reason to believe that the US currency will start weakening again. Similarly, if the Japanese have begun to put their economic act together again, there will be rising fears for the US trade balance with the Pacific and jobs and growth in America. The devaluationists, led by Fred Bergsten of the Institute of International Economics, could be back in the ascendancy.

Stumbling blocks on road to mega-merger

Advisers fall out over BT

Patrick Donovan and Nicholas Bannister

A ROW has erupted between the two banks working for British Telecom on its MCI merger. NM Rothschild is accusing Wall Street's Morgan Stanley of "seizing the limelight" over the City's biggest and most prestigious deal, which will generate up to £150 million for an array of financial advisers. The \$12 billion takeover of the American group, MCI, which yesterday boosted BT shares by 22½p to 373½p, was masterminded by NM Rothschild, BT's merchant bank. However, US-based Morgan Stanley was signed up as a co-manager to the deal because of its specialist knowledge and influence in the American markets. But NM Rothschild is angered by what it sees as attempts by Morgan Stanley to take the public credit for a deal in which it played a subsidiary role. Apparently hoping to seize the public relations initiative over the "show place" merger, which offers huge prestige for the key participants, Morgan Stanley was

over the weekend trumpeting the role it played in orchestrating the deal. But after representations from NM Rothschild, the Wall Street bank was yesterday publicly declining to comment on its contribution towards the success of the merger. Meanwhile, the ground-breaking deal looks as if it will be a bonanza for City advisers. NM Rothschild is expected to earn between £10 million and £15 million with around a third payable up front and the rest due when the deal is completed. Wall Street-based Lazard Freres, which advised MCI, is expected to charge rather more because of the higher fees commanded by US investment banks. But sources expect the bulk of the fees to be generated by legal advisers with yet further funds being spent on the marketing and management consultancy firms expected to be signed up to help form the rebranded company. While BT's shares soared, credit-rating groups warned that they might cut the group's top-notch AAA debt rating - not least because of the huge level of investment to which the group is now committed. Moody's Investor Service said that "Concert's new independent business, operating on BT to give assurances that its members' jobs would not be jeopardised by the deal. The union has already been in touch with its US counterpart to discuss joint initiatives. Geoff Hoon, Labour's technology spokesman, said he had been assured by BT that the takeover of MCI would not affect the group's investment in the UK. Labour is counting on BT and other big telecoms groups for the construction of the UK's information superhighway.

Takeover will be first test of US ownership law

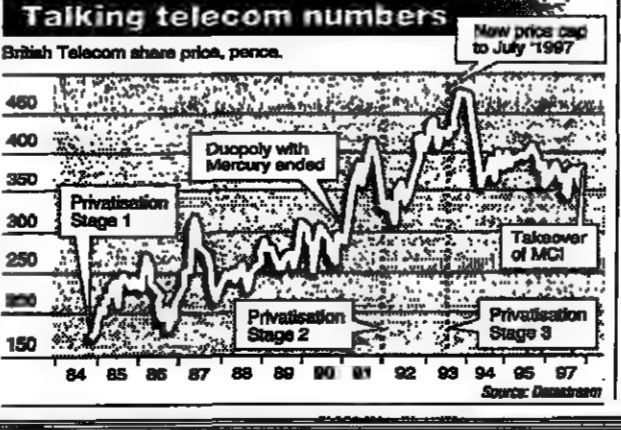
B RITISH Telecom's attempt to create a telecommunications powerhouse by taking over MCI will prove the first big test of new American legislation governing foreign ownership of US telecoms companies. The Telecommunications Act, passed in February, has lifted the stake a foreign company can buy from 20 per cent to 25 per cent and changed the conditions under which the Federal Communications Commission, the US regulator, can waive the restriction. The new test that the FCC has to apply is whether "effective competition opportunities" exist in the home market of the bidder. AT&T, the US group most at risk from a BT-MCI combination, said: "The regulators will have to look at prices, terms and conditions of interconnection, the existence of competitor safeguards and the regulatory environment in the UK." James Quello, a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission, said: "This is a landmark deal that will require some very careful thinking. I am open-minded about it, but we shall have to be reassured on having reciprocity with the British market." The FCC will concentrate on reciprocity, while the Department of Justice will examine the competitive effect within the US, including the impact on the local telephone market, which MCI will target heavily. Extensive hearings and tons of documents are expected in the first round of regulatory review to determine whether American companies enjoy the same access to the British market as British firms have to the American market. An American law prevents a foreign company owning more than 25 per cent of any American firm. The merger could accelerate the opening of markets outside the US as approval of a major European presence in America will put pressure on European regulators to reciprocate. US West, a regional telephone firm that has been competing in the UK since 1991, said: "The UK market is probably the most liberal in the world and OfTel, the UK regulator, has been extremely helpful." It pointed out that it had been allowed to offer cable, telephone and wireless service in Britain sooner than in the US, where deregulation had proceeded more slowly. "These mergers are the ways of the future and will drive competition," a US West official said. "As for the UK, we haven't had too many problems competing there." The merger is expected to face less opposition from the regulatory authorities in Europe and the UK.

THE BIG DEAL



Britain has opened its telecommunications market to American companies like Nynex and US West. But AT&T has cited certain limits on its ability to compete in the UK. AT&T's chairman, Robert Allen, has pointed out that although it has been offering local services in Britain, AT&T is not allowed to handle any international traffic originating there. AT&T also says it operates in the UK strictly on a resale basis and is not permitted to own facilities. Mr Allen argues that BT, which enjoys a 90 per cent market share in the UK, "operates in a market that is not open and competitive by the standards by which we judge competition in the US". American regulators are likely to view the BT-MCI deal as enhancing rather than hindering competition. The merger could accelerate the opening of markets outside the US as approval of a major European presence in America will put pressure on European regulators to reciprocate. US West, a regional telephone firm that has been competing in the UK since 1991, said: "The UK market is probably the most liberal in the world and OfTel, the UK regulator, has been extremely helpful." It pointed out that it had been allowed to offer cable, telephone and wireless service in Britain sooner than in the US, where deregulation had proceeded more slowly. "These mergers are the ways of the future and will drive competition," a US West official said. "As for the UK, we haven't had too many problems competing there." The merger is expected to face less opposition from the regulatory authorities in Europe and the UK.

Standard & Poor's said: "Though Concert's financial profile on a pro-forma basis is expected to remain strong following the merger, the group will face significant capital investment needs and a higher industry risk than BT is currently exposed to." The Communications Workers Union described the MCI takeover as a bold and innovative move for BT but said it was a "crossroads for the future of telecommunications in the UK". It called on BT to give assurances that its members' jobs would not be jeopardised by the deal. The union has already been in touch with its US counterpart to discuss joint initiatives. Geoff Hoon, Labour's technology spokesman, said he had been assured by BT that the takeover of MCI would not affect the group's investment in the UK. Labour is counting on BT and other big telecoms groups for the construction of the UK's information superhighway.



Invesco takes AIM for £1 bn to create new group

Richard Miles

INVESCO, the independent fund management group, announced yesterday it is to pay \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) for AIM Management Group, a rapidly growing US mutual fund manager. The deal, which is subject to the approval of AIM's 3 million mutual fund holders, will create a new group named Amvesco, with combined assets under management of \$150 billion.

Charles Bauer, the 77-year-old chairman and chief executive of AIM, described the combination as "truly compelling". He becomes vice-chairman of the new company. Both organisations stressed that there were no plans for job losses or office closures. Amvesco, which plans to take over Invesco's listing on the London Stock Exchange, will have a combined workforce of 2,600 based at 20 sites around the world. Invesco, with \$91 billion

under management and a market capitalisation of \$332 million, has more than 70 per cent of its business in the US institutional markets, but has struggled to tap into the fast-growing retail mutual fund business, which has been stoked by the demand for pensions. In the UK, Invesco recently started to woo retail investors again, following a six-figure fine from Imro, the regulator of money managers, partly connected to the Maxwell scandal. Its European unit trust funds have done particularly well in recent months, picking up many investors who deserted Deutsche Morgan Grenfell after the antics of Peter Young were uncovered. Analysts yesterday welcomed the merger, describing it as a good move at a good price for Invesco. "AIM's client base is growing more rapidly than Invesco's, so this is probably a low price," said one. Shares in Invesco remained unchanged at 237.5p.

No heroics for revenue cheats

Dan Atkinson

ONE-FIFTH of the Italian GDP is hidden in the black economy. The US Treasury's tax take is riding light to the tune of billions of dollars. And there is just one word for most of the tax dodges identified: Stupid. Take the retirement home. Revenue sleuths didn't have to be Sherlock Holmes to suspect the purchasing records showing receipts for condoms and tampons, products not in great demand among the elderly. The receipts, it emerged, had been fished from empty shopping trolleys. And the frog-suit and flippers? [The] dealer tried to claim that he wore them when washing cars."

grabbing machine can be quantified by the fact that counter-avoidance and counter-avoidance activities by the Revenue in 1995/96 netted a paltry £1.6 billion, barely enough money to keep HMG in business for 48 hours. And there is just one word for most of the tax dodges identified: Stupid. Take the retirement home. Revenue sleuths didn't have to be Sherlock Holmes to suspect the purchasing records showing receipts for condoms and tampons, products not in great demand among the elderly. The receipts, it emerged, had been fished from empty shopping trolleys. And the frog-suit and flippers? [The] dealer tried to claim that he wore them when washing cars."

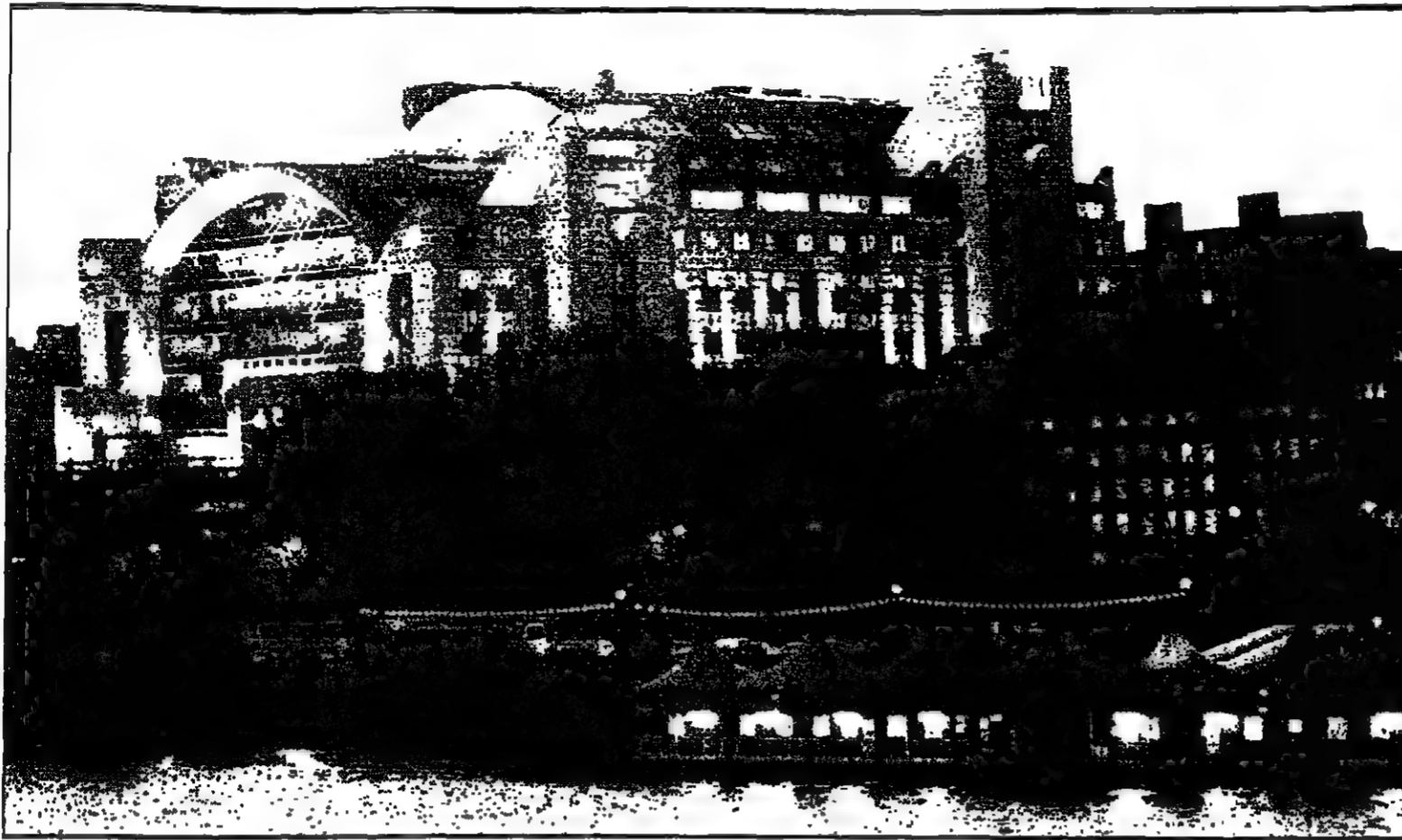
Australia 2.01	France 3.11	Italy 2.441	Singapore 2.25
Austria 1.83	Germany 2.4065	Japan 1.38	Spain 202.1
Belgium 48.25	Greece 361.50	Netherlands 2.704	Sweden 10.02
Canada 1.15	Hong Kong 12.38	New Zealand 2.25	Switzerland 2.01
Cyprus 0.73	India 58.27	Norway 10.18	Turkey 132.763
Denmark 8.26	Indonesia 0.271	Portugal 244.50	USA 1.8300
Finland 7.35	Israel 6.28	Saudi Arabia 6.11	

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Property firm hits back at Active Value

Ian King

A WAR of words broke out yesterday between Greycat, the embattled property company, and Active Value, the predatory fund manager...



Defence base... burning the night oil at Greycat's headquarters on London's Thames Embankment

In its first communication to shareholders since Active Value requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting for next week, Greycat attacked the fund manager's proposals as 'ill-conceived' and urged their rejection.

Greycat has also reported a 123 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits to £3.8 million. The shares closed down 1p at 147p.

He added: "We are delivering value, and I would be surprised if our institutional shareholders came down on the side of a closing-down sale."

Halifax forecasts 7pc house price rise

Larry Elliott, Economics Editor

HOUSE PRICES in the UK are set to rise by 7 per cent this year...

higher than a year ago, compared with the 5.2 per cent reported for September.

The society - Britain's biggest mortgage lender - said that the strength of the market in October had prompted it to upgrade its end-year forecast from 5 per cent.

Airlines plan court challenge on new noise limits

Keith Harper, Transport Editor

THE Government is facing a judicial challenge from the airline industry over its plans to introduce stricter noise limits to protect the environment...

Noise monitors will also be improved. The court action is being pursued by the International Air Transport Association (IATA)...

the absence of which it would take action through the courts. "That deadline has now passed, so we will be seeking a judicial review to prevent the changes being implemented," he said.

with American Airlines is the latest, Mr Jeannot said. "The mega networks" could lead to a "randomly assembled set of arrangements" more likely to resemble a plate of spaghetti than a complete service network.

Mutual insurer raises £215m

Richard Miles

FRIENDS Provident, the life insurance and fund management group, yesterday raised £215 million of debt stock in a clear signal to predators that the company wishes to retain its mutual status.

- Friendly debate
For mutuality:
- Less vulnerable to take-over.
- Life insurance policyholders benefit from profits generated.
- No shareholder intervention in corporate strategy.

But Michael Doerr, chief executive, said yesterday that the issue of £215 million new debt stock proved mutuals could still raise money on the market, and hinted that the company was looking at making an acquisition of its own.

and the resulting increase in solvency ratios will give us even more flexibility in the future to grow both organically and by acquisition," he said.

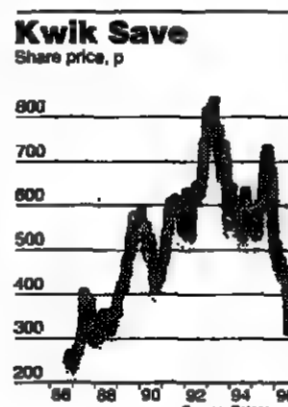


Advertisement for Investors in People. Text: "You're used to successful meetings. So are we." Logo for Investors in People.

News in brief

Kwik Save will shut up to 100 stores

SHARES in Kwik Save fell to a nine-year low yesterday following reports that the company is to take an axe to its 970-strong store chain...



Rank offloads coach firm

RANK, the leisure group, is about to sell its Shearings coach holiday business to a management team for a sum believed to be £20 million.

Biotech news falls flat

SHARES of British Biotech, Britain's biggest biotechnology company, slid 19p to 210p yesterday, despite upbeat news from the company about Marimastat, its anti-cancer drug.

Asbestos lifeline for T&N

THE T&N car components group was thrown a lifeline yesterday when the US Supreme Court agreed to review a large asbestos settlement.

Northern Electric bid bonus

FOUR directors of regional electricity company Northern Electric will share profits of £388,796 from their share options if the hostile takeover bid mounted by US firm CalEnergy succeeds.

BAT poised to increase stake in troubled ITC

Ian King

BAT Industries, the tobacco giant's financial services combine, is likely to use the crisis at ITC, its troubled Indian subsidiary, to take a greater stake in the company.

company was meeting ITC's institutional investors today and tomorrow. He said the greatest priority, as an ITC shareholder, was ensuring that the company continued to trade in the face of all the allegations and "management paralysis" it faced.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: مکتبہ اسلامی

Sport in brief

Swaledale cyclist is banned for ephedrine

THE Swaledale CC rider Jill Reames has been banned for six months and stripped of the national 100-mile time-trial championship silver medal she won in July after testing positive for ephedrine...

Somerset opt for Reeve

SOMERSET will today confirm the appointment of Dermot Reeve on a three-year contract as director of cricket in succession to Bob Cottam...

Teenager sets NBA record

THE LA Lakers guard Kobe Bryant became, at 18, the youngest player to appear in a National Basketball Association game as the home side won 91-85 against the Minnesota Timberwolves...

Montgomerie on the move

THE European No. 1 Colin Montgomerie and seven other golfers embark today on a Far East odyssey in which they will play 18 holes in each of four Asian capitals over six days in pursuit of a \$20,000 first prize...

Jackman bucks rankings

NORFOLK's Cassie Jackman, promoted last week to world No. 3 in women's squash, beat the No. 2 and former world champion Michelle Martin of Australia for the third time in as many weeks...



INSTANT FREEPHONE BETTING 0800 44 40 40

Catch me if you can... Tony McCoy sets a hot pace on Bean Babillard on his way to winning yesterday's Jolly Tanners at Staplefield Chase at Plumpton

Coulton can be the Travado party pooper

Ken Oliver
LIVER SHERWOOD'S horses are in tremendous form and the Lambourne trainer has a fine chance of landing a treble today with Coulton and Dark Nightingale at Exeter and Fairies Farewell at Warwick.

When defeating the smart Gales Cavalier at Wincanton nine days ago. After that victory Sherwood said: "When Coulton is on song it takes an exceptional horse to beat him."

that should not prevent her from scoring again and she looks the day's best bet. At Warwick, Fairies Farewell (3.55) does not look harshly treated in the Earl of Essex Novice Handicap Hurdle and the fill she receives from Alpine Nest should give her the edge.

Jim Neville's first winner as a permit holder. This time she made all to win by a distance from Rachael's Owen in the Balcombe Selling Hurdle. Neville, who now has a full licence and trains a string of 20 on the Welsh side of the Severn Bridge at Newport, said: "Last year I thought she would win a handicap after her display here, but it seems she is not quite good enough for that."

Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in March. "Mysliv is having a bit of a rest after a hard time in her French races and will not be seen until after Christmas," said Egerton. "She is not good enough for the Champion Hurdle and needs a trip. The mare also has not had enough experience for the fences at Cheltenham at this stage - so it is the Stayers' for her."

son's Coral is a 9-4 chance with Coral's, while the sponsors go 4-1. Jenny Pitman, who trained last year's winner Jibber The Kibber, is represented by Jet Rules (7-1 with both firms) and Arithmetic (4-1 with the Tote and 16-1 with Coral).

Redcar runners and riders with form guide

Table with 2 columns: Race details (time, distance, conditions) and runner/rider names with odds.

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Warwick (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race details and runner/rider names with odds.

Exeter (N.H.)

Table with 2 columns: Race details and runner/rider names with odds.

Results

Table with 2 columns: Race details and results (winner, runner-up, etc.)

Southwell

Table with 2 columns: Race details and runner/rider names with odds.

Newcastle

Table with 2 columns: Race details and runner/rider names with odds.

Viola in tune

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a woman's face and contact information for a betting service.

Soccer

Dalglish keeps Ibrox in suspense

Patrick Glenn
WALTER SMITH, the Rangers manager, yesterday confirmed that Kenny Dalglish has been offered the post of directing the Ibrox Park club's proposed global-scouting system.

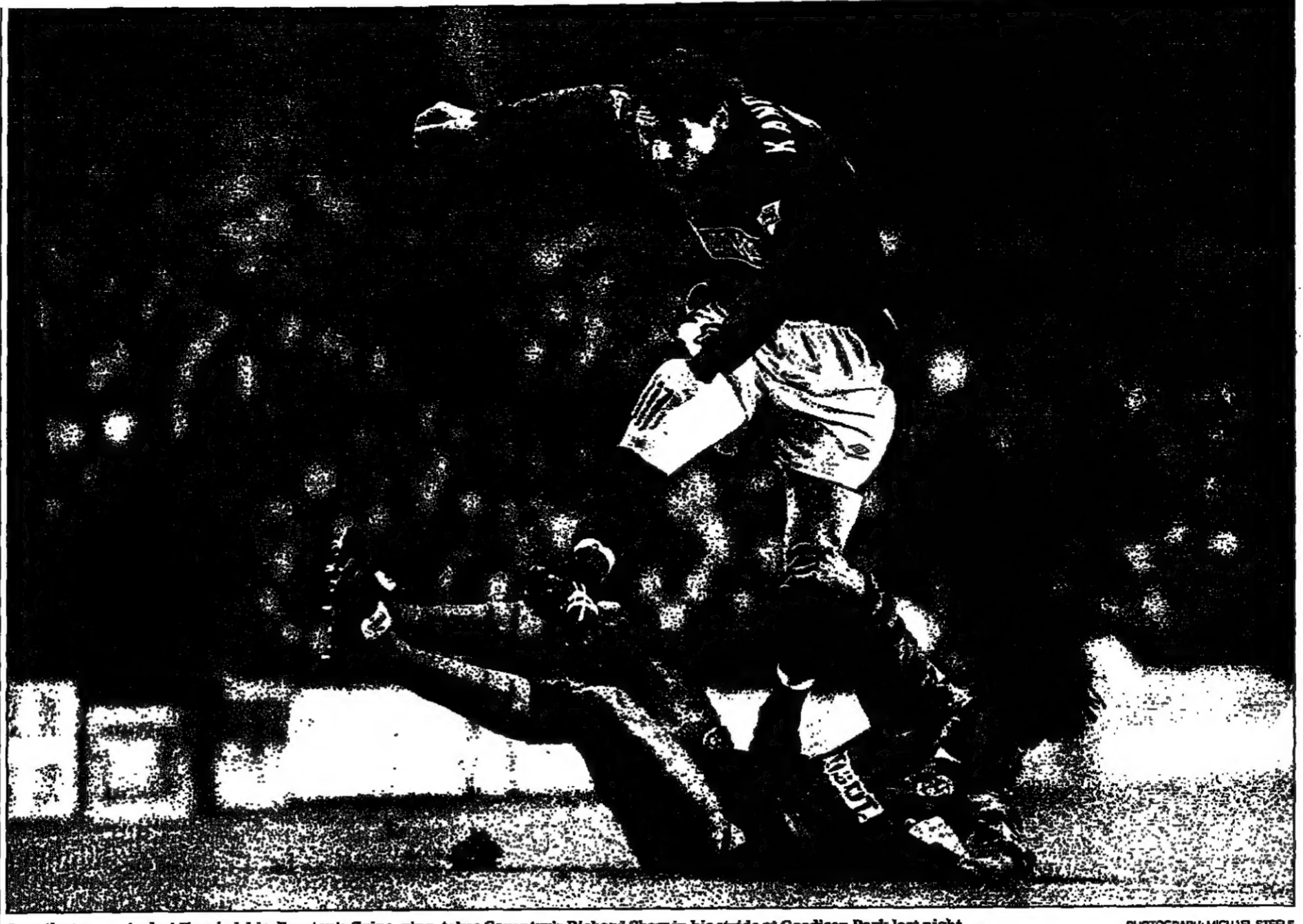
considerable cost — even Brian Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne, successful at home, have failed in Europe — and a feeling that they have missed the boat in some instances.

"An offer was put to Kenny before our match against Ajax last week," said Smith, "but we have not yet had his decision. We hope to have a meeting with him shortly and we will let you know as soon as we hear."

Rangers believe that Dalglish can carry out that role although they like Celtic have yet to come up with a method of convincing overseas names that Scottish football is the place to be.

The former Scotland international striker Ian Wallace has been appointed Dumbarton's manager in succession to Jim Fallon who resigned at the weekend after a 5-0 defeat at Livingston.

Wallace, one of the game's early £1 million players after leaving Coventry City for Nottingham Forest, has held managerial posts in Australia. He will keen to improve on a record that sees the Second Division club as the only one without a home win in Scotland this season.



Over the top... Andrei Kanchelskis, Everton's flying wing, takes Coventry's Richard Shaw in his stride at Goodison Park last night

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Houchen sacked by Hartlepool

KEITH HOUCHEM'S first stab at management ended yesterday when he was dismissed by Third Division Hartlepool United, who are languishing in 91st place in the league.

His own drug tests and did not play in matches if the tests were positive. He denied allegations that his urine sample had been switched with that of an opponent before a post-match drug test in Argentina on August 11.

"It's a load of nonsense. For years I have done my own anti-doping controls during the week before a match. And if I tested positive in my tests I did not play. And I played this time, didn't I?" he said.

He denied allegations that his urine sample had been switched with that of an opponent before a post-match drug test in Argentina on August 11. Maradona's sample tested negative, the other player's was positive.

Premiership: Everton 1, Coventry City 1

McAllister turns the wrong into right

Ian Ross
COVENTRY City's plight is such that they remain thankful for small mercies. They will unquestionably regard a draw against a team which had won their three previous games as a significant achievement but, in truth, this was hardly a night for the pundits. It was a scruffy and undistinguished affair, characterised throughout by wretched finishing and poorly channelled efforts.

Not for the first time this season Goodison Park's public address system was the bearer of unhappy tidings. While Nick Barmby was safely in place after his 55.75 million move from Middlesbrough, he would not be exchanging passes with Duncan Ferguson.

Ferguson is now free of suspension but not of injury. A damaged calf seems certain to remove him also from the Scotland team for the World Cup qualifier with Sweden in Glasgow at the weekend. He is fast becoming the invisible man of Merseyside football.

But, once Coventry found a steady rhythm in central midfield, they too began to hint at goals. Richardson, an Everton favourite for a different generation of fans, twice saw thunderous drives from distance pass narrowly wide.

But one by the referee but by one of his assistants. Graham Stuart scored but, to a man, Coventry continued to protest not only Richardson's innocence but also that Ogri-zovic had been impeded in the build-up. The argument held water.

This perceived injustice did little to enhance Coventry's chances of recovery. Their football was even more threadbare, even less convincing after the interval and, by injecting more pace, Everton threatened to run away with the game.

Norway's Iversen poised to join Spurs

THE Norwegian striker Stefan Iversen is one of three foreign players on the target list of Tottenham's manager Gerry Francis. The 19-year-old, a key figure in Rosenberg's European Champions League side and scorer of 10 goals in 16 games for Norway Under-21, was in London at the weekend and had further talks at White Hart Lane yesterday over the proposed £1.75 million move on a five-year contract.

for Francis, who has been forced to look abroad by the reluctance of his chairman Alan Sugar to pay the millions needed for top players in Britain. The fee would beat the previous record for a Norwegian player, the £1.5 million that took Roberto Baggio to Manchester United last summer.

The captain Ben Thatcher is one of four withdrawals from the England Under-21 squad for Friday's European Championship qualifier in Georgia. The Wimbledon left-back pulled out after damaging his foot in Wimbledon's Saturday clash with Arsenal on Saturday.

Middlesbrough's uncapped midfielder Phil Stamp, who managed a brief cameo in Sunday's defeat at Newcastle. Peter Taylor, the Under-21 manager, is likely to name a replacement today. "It looks as if I'll have to bring someone in because of the position," he said.

Wales's chances of getting anything out of their World Cup qualifier in Holland on Saturday were reduced almost to zero yesterday when Ryan Giggs was pulled out of the squad by Manchester United, writes Martin Collier.

Wales suffer Giggs blow

Wales's chances of getting anything out of their World Cup qualifier in Holland on Saturday were reduced almost to zero yesterday when Ryan Giggs was pulled out of the squad by Manchester United, writes Martin Collier.

With Mark Hughes suspended, Wales take on the Dutch in Eindhoven without two of their best players, having already lost 3-1 in Cardiff to Holland a month ago.

Wales's chances of getting anything out of their World Cup qualifier in Holland on Saturday were reduced almost to zero yesterday when Ryan Giggs was pulled out of the squad by Manchester United, writes Martin Collier.

I'm a changed man now, Gascoigne tells Hoddle

Continued from p26
where his life was leading. "Obviously I've done things just out of... just out of... whatever you call it... whatever you call it... Later, the next day, I've regretted it. And then I've tried to hide it by joking and that, and pretending I didn't regret it, which I had done.

it, and then I won't be in so much trouble as I have been in the past. I want to be accepted as Paul Gascoigne the footballer and Paul Gascoigne the person.

"In the past I seemed to hate everybody. That's the one thing I'm getting rid of." The issue of whether Gascoigne stays in the England team has now taken over from the question of Hoddle keeping him in the squad.

Team talk

Table with columns for team names and numbers. Arsenal 06, Ipswich 06, Sheffield 15, Aston 11, Leeds 03, Sheffield Wed 14, etc.

Results

Soccer FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Sheff Wed (1) 1, Coventry (0) 1
Sheff Wed (1) 1, Coventry (0) 1

American Football

APFL Atlanta vs Carolina 17, Baltimore 21, Cincinnati 34, Chicago 13, Tampa Bay 19, Dallas 27, Philadelphia 31, Green Bay 28, etc.

Cricket

YOUTH MATCHES
Worcestershire 253 and 226, Warwickshire 149 and 148, Lancashire 138 and 137, etc.

Fixtures

Soccer COCA-COLA CUP
Coventry City v Arsenal, Liverpool v Manchester United, etc.

Pools Forecast

NATIONAL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
1 Barnsley v Bradford City, 2 Charlton v Plymouth, 3 Ipswich v Southend, etc.

Tennis

ATP RANKINGS
Novak Djokovic 1, Rafael Nadal 2, Roger Federer 3, etc.

Ice Hockey

USA Hockey
Boston Bruins 4, New York Rangers 1, etc.

Squash

WORLD CUP
England 4-0, Scotland 3-0, etc.

Rugby Union

TOUR MATCHES
England v France, etc.

Ice Hockey

USA Hockey
Boston Bruins 4, New York Rangers 1, etc.

Dallas



T

Newcastle Saturday

Further Anglo-W

Rugby Union

Jack Rowell names his England captain today. Robert Armstrong says the hot favourite for a hot seat is old enough if good enough

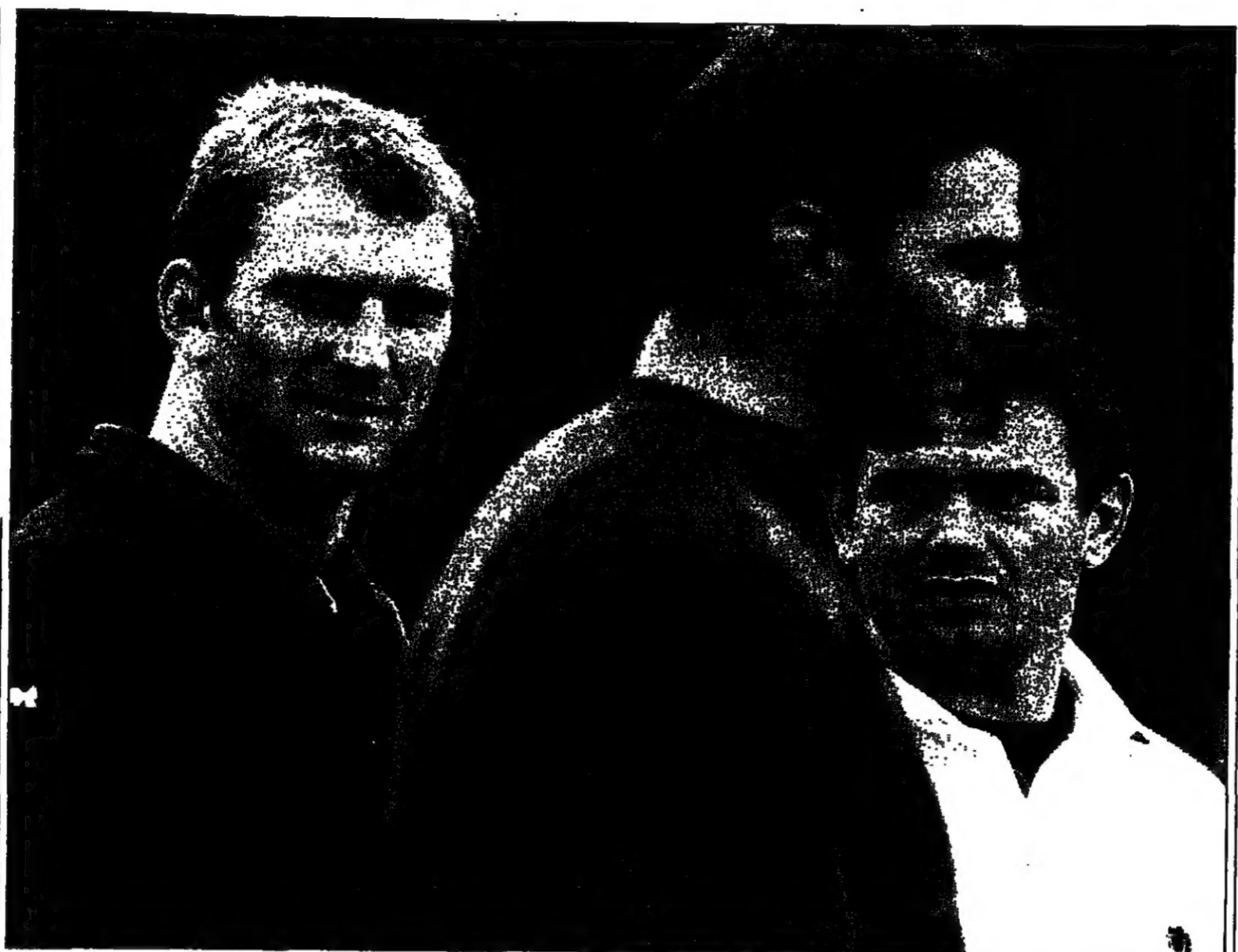
Dallaglio leader of the leaders



Jack Rowell... the coach nominates the captain, the RFU appoints him

THE England captaincy may not quite be a poisoned chalice but whoever takes on the job will have to deal with more than his fair share of rancour, envy and malice.

Lawrence Dallaglio is the hot favourite to succeed Carling but his appointment is far from certain. He is 24, for the job and that anyway he is not certain to keep his place.



Group captain... from the left, the probable Dallaglio, the possible Clarke and the past Carling at England's recent training session

claim Carling did nothing more than make the after-dinner speeches are also fond of saying that England, in the new era of the all-powerful coach, do not need a captain.

Ben Clarke, ranked by New Zealanders as top British player on the 1993 Lions tour, is thought to have killed off his prospects by opting for League Two rugby and the megabucks of Richmond.

Tim Rodber, who used to be known as FEC (Future England Captain), is reckoned to have played himself out of contention through a combination of allegedly poor form and his dismissal for punching an opponent in South Africa two years ago.

last season, desperately need a captain with excellent communication skills who cares just as much about winning and losing as Carling did. When Plan A goes wrong — and it usually does for England — a cool, independent personality at the helm is worth his weight in lucrative RFU contracts.

to Dallaglio, a man who positively relishes problem-solving on the hoof, notwithstanding his modest total of six caps. Unlike Carling, who was given the job at 22, the 31-year-old forward has a proven background of club captaincy — thrust upon him when Dean Ryan took the Newcastle shilling — that should serve as an invaluable apprenticeship for the tasks ahead.

laglio is very much his own man, publicly questioning some recent Epruc decisions which undermined the preparations of the England squad. If Rowell does nominate Dallaglio, the coach will not be getting a mere placeman who loyally rubber-stamps the decisions of the boss.

passed over, none of the other front runners or dark horses would make anything less than a competent England captain. Other European nations, including France, would be delighted to have men of such calibre to choose from. One reason why Carling flourished for eight seasons, leading England to a record 44 wins, was the number of potential leaders around him. It is time again for positive discrimination.

The front runners

Ben Clarke
Age 28, caps 28
The big Ben's long-term contract with Richmond will earn the former Bath forward at least \$1 million and he could expect to triple that as England captain. Friendly and ultra-relaxed, Clarke did not bat an eyelid recently when his girlfriend gave him a sharp smack on the nose from her sports car on Richmond Bridge.

Lawrence Dallaglio
Age 24, caps 6
The big Wasp with the Italian pedigree enjoys standing at the blackboard during England team talks outlining strategies and options for success. He has a certain way with referees too, often chatting them up, such as relieving them of their start being infected with his hostility towards the opposition.

Phil De Glanville
Age 28, caps 16
The Bath captain is a skilled diplomat, as he proved by persuading virtually all the Bath squad to stay together when substantial offers were flooding in from rival clubs last spring. With Carling and Guscott in form, his place is uncertain but his ability to talk good sense allied to astute tactical awareness would serve England well.

Jason Leonard
Age 28, caps 49
England's most capped prop — and does — talk to anyone on virtually any subject, so instant communication when things go wrong should not be a problem. Harlequins' captain has remarkable courage on and off the field, as he showed by making his Test come-back against Canada after delicate neck surgery four years ago.

Tim Rodber
Age 27, caps 25
An Army officer with the Green Howards, Rodber's stock in the eyes of Jack Rowell went up and down like a yo-yo last season when he was captaining Worcester's promotion drive from League Two. His recent form back in League One has been first-rate, which should ensure a back-row berth, if not the captaincy.

Captain by name if not by function

Eddie Butler, the former Wales captain, believes it is the coach who pulls the strings

THROUGHOUT rugby's second Bore War, only one secret has survived the Yorkshire Water torture. Only one bit of information has not been leaked: the name of the England captain.

This morning the waiting will be over and there will be an official announcement, an appointment, an appointment with all the pomp that Twickenham can muster for a good-news story.

It would be interesting if Marty Lewis could read out the winners, Miss World style, in reverse order: (drum roll) "in third place, Philip De Glanville; in second, Jason Leonard... but first and indisputably licensed to print money, Lawrence Dallaglio..." (fanfare)

It will be a PR triumph, putting the sport ahead of the politics on the back pages. Big Jack Rowell had said he would not nominate his skipper until the squabbling was over. And here he will be, naming his man.

But what does it all mean? What will the England captain have to do? By far the biggest part of the job will be dealing with the media. All the leading candidates are good at that. Leonard is your mate down the pub, 'ave a laugh, give a Frog a smack if he starts taking the micky in the scrum. De Glanville is classless Oxbridge. And Dallaglio is the man who rose to his feet last season when asked by Rowell to explain precisely how England were going to beat Scotland, and gave the coach and fellow players chapter and verse with unblinking authority.

The hotel meeting-room on a Saturday morning or the changing room just before kick-off are about the only places where the captain can shift the mood of his team. And even there, in the inner sanctum, it is debatable whether a few words, however well delivered, can alter things.

Will Carling was England's most successful captain and yet his team talks do not appear to have been all that stirring. He persuaded his forwards to change their ways on the big occasion only once — and England lost the 1991 World Cup final.

Grand Slams but mauled rugby into the first Bore War which set back the evolution of the game in this hemisphere by five years.

Carling will go down as a good captain but really he was simply the leader of a good team. Compare him with Phil Bennett of Wales, Claran Fitzgerald of Ireland and Gavin Hastings of Scotland. Each was a successful captain; each lost in New Zealand as captain of the Lions and came home with reputation dented. It somehow seems easier to diminish the qualities of the leader than admit that on each occasion the All Blacks were a better side.

Ironically, what made Carling great was that as non-captain in 1993 he went through a nightmare tour but re-emerged right at the end with reputation enhanced. To do that as a dirt-tracker in New Zealand speaks volumes for his personal motivation.

On the field there is little the captain can do. He can tell the kicker to go for the corner rather than goal, he can opt for a scrum rather than a line-out, but the game is now played at such a pace that drastic tactical rethinks are beyond a participant's vision.

The coach determines style. He is the strategist. The captain can only motivate beforehand, get stuck into the play and deliver a few onigs afterwards. The coach has the overview from the stand; only he can alter things by sending on his messages and juggling his replacements.

The only time the captain will have to think on his feet and make major snap decisions is in the media scrum. And Carling is the benchmark against whom the new man will be judged. It is one of the ironies of the situation that Carling became a tactical genius off the pitch just as he was giving up the captaincy.

Though his successor may have an admirable tactical brain, how will he follow Carling in the areas of captaincy that really matter? He will not be in command of his destiny, for his reputation will be forged by his team and his coach. England could play safe, but if they truly want to avoid a third Bore War they will need to take risks. The new captain may not be in a position to have a princess, but a fairy godmother might come in handy.

Newcastle given Saturday off

NEWCASTLE, who had threatened to pull three of their players from Scotland's squads for the weekend unless they were given permission to postpone Saturday's Courage league game against Rotherham, were yesterday successful with their plea.

It is understood that the thumbs-up was given by the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc), which last week also gave West Hartlepool permission to postpone a league match because of injury problems.

preparation is vital, and that means players attending squad sessions.

The Swansea and Wales fly-half Arwel Thomas has rejected an approach from the French club Bourgoin. "Their fly-half, Gille Casagange, is retiring at the end of this season and they want a replacement," said the 21-year-old former Bristol player. "It was flattering, and I am interested in playing for a French club at some stage of my career. I can't yet because of my other commitments."

Further Anglo-Welsh delays

THE Anglo-Welsh Cup, bedeviled by postponements, resumes tomorrow with only half of its eight fixtures intact. Northampton's home fixture with Caerphilly moves to November 26 and new dates must also be arranged for Bridgend v Bristol, Newcastle v West Hartlepool and Saracens v Treorchy.

or 12 days' time, will play tomorrow. Leicester's England flanker Neil Back returns after a six-month ban — he pushed a referee — for their visit to Neath. Llanelli visit Harlequins. Pontypridd entertain Wasps and Durnham host London Irish. Cardiff's match in Bath will not be played until March because they will entertain Bath in their Reineken Cup quarter-final on Saturday week.

Tennis

Moya avoids early Moscow coup

Richard Jago in Moscow
CARLOS MOYA, conqueror of Boris Becker and Tim Henman in Paris last week, three times came within a point of being knocked out in the opening match of the Kremlin Cup yesterday.

he when 3-5 down to Bohdan Ulihrach. However, the American then had the Czech bouncing his racket in frustration as a series of early-ball returns and net rushes earned the break-back. Once the set was saved, it was all Washington. He won 7-6, 6-2.

abandoned his favoured style and tried to serve and volley instead. Despite two match points against him on his serve at 3-5 in the second set, Moya rescued himself by his less familiar method, although at 5-6 in the tie-break he had to save a third match point with a high, lurching backhand, drawing a ground-stroke error from Furlan.

started so potentially on a much faster carpet surface than that in Paris for the Frenchman to have another chance. All of which should act as a warning to Henman, who starts today against the Zimbabwean Byron Black, who employs double-handed strokes on both wings. If the British No.1 comes through to a second-round meeting with Marc Rosset he will find the Swiss player's serve booming on this surface.

American Football

Eagles swoop for last-minute win to rein in the Cowboys

Mark Tran in New York
PHILADELPHIA are back in business as serious challengers for the Super Bowl. The Eagles landed in the Dallas Cowboys' backyard and came away with a 31-21 win that snuffed a long-lost Texas Stadium had been the burial ground of Philadelphia's hopes in the past five years and so it seemed again with just over a minute left. The Cowboys were poised for a winning touchdown, or a game into overtime.

starting quarterback Rodney Peete early in the season, but his able deputy Ty Detmer has become a local hero in Philadelphia after leading the Eagles to one victory after another.

this devastating defeat was the last thing they needed before Sunday's showdown with the San Francisco 49ers, who beat the New Orleans Saints 24-17.

snooker

Snooker

O'Sullivan has close shave

Clive Everton in Bangkok
ENGLAND's team of Peter Ebdon, Nigel Bond and Ronnie O'Sullivan unconvincedly qualified for the quarter-finals of the Castrol Honda World Cup here by beating Pakistan 6-3 to finish top of Group C.

Ice Hockey

Devils revel in sudden-death

Vic Batchelder
THE Cardiff Devils like sudden-death overtime and they took full advantage of it to win 3-2 at Nottingham on Saturday and 5-4 at home to the Newcastle Cobras on Sunday.

The victories put them top of the Superleague a point ahead of Newcastle and the Sheffield Steelers. They visit the Steelers tomorrow. "That will be a tough one," the Devils' coach Paul Heavey said yesterday, adding that though he had not received any requests for overtime rates from his players, "I wouldn't be surprised if they come in the office and start talking about it". Heavey said Cardiff would stand by their Canadian forward Marty Yewchuk, who, having appealed against an initial nine-game suspension, had his ban increased to 20 matches on Saturday. "The club is shocked at the suspension, it's way, way too excessive. We'll be exploring all avenues to get the decision reversed if possible," said Heavey, adding that he believed the Superleague was making an example of Yewchuk as a deterrent to others.

Drug ban for British cyclist, page 13

Rangers bid for Dalglish, page 14

Giggs pulls out of Wales squad, page 14

Dallaglio leads the field, page 15

SportsGuardian

GASCOIGNE ON GASCOIGNE

'I can't really describe the rage inside. Obviously what happened with my wife I deeply regret, and that will live with me for ever.'

'I don't blame the likes of the women's rights. I don't blame anybody for wanting me kicked out of the squad.'



Facing it out... Paul Gascoigne, self-confessed wife-beater, with Glenn Hoddle, under fire for including him in the England squad

David Lacey with the England party on a day when violence counselling upstaged World Cup qualifying team-talk

I'm a changed man, really I am

ENGLAND yesterday began their preparations for Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Georgia in what might now be regarded as normal circumstances. Dominic Matteo was bothered by a recurrent knee injury. Tony Adams was due at a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous, and Paul Gascoigne bared his soul. He bared it, moreover, like Gypsy Rose Lee, with an expertise born of practice. And after being grilled by reporters with almost every question except "When did you stop beating your wife?" he received a round of applause. It was not the media's most glorious moment. On Friday Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, announced Gascoigne's inclusion in the squad for Tbilisi despite allegations that the player had battered Sheryl, his wife of 14 weeks, during an argument at the Glens Eagles Hotel 19 days earlier.

The public reaction was fiercely critical of Hoddle's decision. Women's groups were enraged. His explanation that Gascoigne needed help, was having counselling, and that leaving him out would have been too easy an option, did not spare Hoddle from accusations that he had regarded football skill as reason enough not to censure a player who hit a female. Yesterday Gascoigne, not Hoddle, decided the time was right for a public show of remorse. By the time he had finished, it was tempting to believe that in his 30th year Gazza Gretrius had at last become Gazza Sapiens. We have been this way before. In the past, whenever Gascoigne has appeared to be on the point of reapplying for membership of the human race, he has tended to take a raincheck at the last minute. The difference now would appear to be the professional help he decided to seek after the Glens Eagles incident, which left his wife with a badly bruised face and damaged fingers. "What I did, I really couldn't believe that was me the following morning," Gascoigne said in his broad Geordie accent. "So I thought I'd definitely got to sort it out. The thing that happened with Sheryl I really regret. I don't blame the likes of women's rights. I don't blame anyone for wanting me kicked out of the squad. "I'm under pressure a lot more than other players and have been for five or six years, and I've just let everything boil up inside of us instead of just coming out with things. The thing with me wife was the last straw." Gascoigne believes he is already a different person through the counselling he has had. "The Rangers players have noticed it, the England team. Nobody actually clamoured

Golfers never die, they grow old gracefully



Richard Williams

LEE TREVINO won a tournament on Sunday, which is good news for those who like to see games played with a certain panache. They will not be surprised to hear that the 56-year-old earned his victory by sinking a 38ft birdie putt at the first hole of a five-way play-off. He had been on his way out of the clubhouse at the Moors Golf Club in Milton, Florida with his bag in his hand, on his way to collect the cheque for a tied second place in the Emerald Coast Classic, when he heard the news that Dave Stockton, the leader, had bogeyed the 17th. Trevino put his bag down and had a rethink. He had already given his hat and his remaining balls to a security guard. "I said, 'Listen, you've got to give me the balls back. I've got another hat.'" Ten minutes later he could afford a few more hats. How much do you think that play-off putt was worth to Trevino, almost three decades after he won his first major? A cheque for \$157,788, that's how much. His first victory this year also gave him the 27th of his career on the Senior Tour, which is a record, to add to the two Opens, two US Opens and two US PGAs he conquered between 1968 and 1984. By maintaining his record of a tournament win in each of the past seven years, he boosted his on-course return for the year to \$636,753 and pushed his career total as a senior to \$6,889,649, enabling him to retake the career lead from Bob Charles, the great left-hander from New Zealand. Trevino versus the rest at the Moors was the first five-way play-off in the history of the Senior Tour, which will do its box office reputation no harm at all. But a nail-biting finish with big money at stake is not really the point of sport between seniors, veterans, classic sportsmen, heritage heroes or whatever marketing-friendly label you want to stick on those oldies who won't lie down and die. The prosperity of an event such as the Emerald Coast Classic has the same root as that of so much professional sport at the end of the century. Nobody actually clamoured

for the veterans to set up their own tour. What they are doing is feeding the boundless appetite of all those television channels out there. And the sponsors and advertisers love it because the appearance of famous names guarantees a certain level of interest and exposure. But the by-product is a lot of harmless fun for the rest of us. Not all sports are ideally suited to it. First among those, you might have thought, would be boxing. But the world heavyweight championship continues to provide the spectacle of the world's most highly paid senior sportsmen shaking their punches at one another. Put it if you were, let's say, a former professional cycling champion, the memory of all those years of pain would almost certainly deter you from anything more than a social spin on a Sunday afternoon. Athletics, rugby and football are too aerobically demanding, and—as those kickabouts they sometimes have before the Cup Final prove—the contrast between the images in our memory and the reality in front of our eyes is too painful. Cricket is fine for batsman but not so flattering to bowlers, although I would pay good money and travel a fair distance to see any match featuring Dennis Lillee and Michael Holding in their present states of repair. Motor racing is pretty good, and it doesn't even need to be competitive. Too young to have seen Stirling Moss driving a Vanwall in the late Fifties, I watched him guide one gently around Monza 20 years later, treating the elegant green car as gently as if it were the district nurse's Morris Minor. Somehow it was still the real thing. SOMETIMES the ageing process actually lets you see more. In golf, there is a chance to study the swings of onetime great players at reduced speed, which makes it easier to savour the beauty and individuality of the mechanism. For this sort of thing, as for much else, tennis is the best game of the lot. It always surprises me that such a demanding game can be played with undiminished enjoyment into old age, since it involves sprits, lunges, keen eyes and quick reflexes. Yet Laver, Rosewall, Santana and many others play today almost exactly as they did in their prime, increasing with every year the number of generations who can claim the pleasure of saying they saw them at first hand and were not disappointed.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

Across

- 1 How lazy can you get round a tree on the night of 23 177 (7)
- 5 Disconnected belligerent (7)
- 10 Centre of road network, source of 6a on 23 17 (4)
- 11 Primate entertaining marshal to turn with topper (7-3)
- 12 Guy from the West among the inauthentic (5)
- 13 Romance left in the boxes? (4,4)
- 14 The French island's secret exposed in a city (9)
- 16 See 15
- 17 See 23
- 19,27 A little preparation wouldn't go amiss on 23 17 (9,4)
- 22,27 Time to celebrate venom removed by female if in bedroom (6,5)
- 24 Locomotive plant for 23 17 (6)
- 26 Student gets one jewel—nothing crooked about it—it's a favour (10)
- 27 See 18
- 28 Regular soldier in hospital? (7)
- 29 10's woman has a little clostrice (7)

Down

- 2 Pipe outside tank like the Big-enflans' eggs (7)
- 3 Sport enthusiast often gets out (9)
- 4 Crass it may be to be such discriminating people (7)
- 6 Have power before old age arises and you snuff it (6)
- 7 One only rigged Arab ship—the rig doesn't matter (3,3,3)
- 8 Speech sound—give me a ball (7)
- 9 Not much mercy shown in Lilliputian ghetto? (5,7)
- 13,16 Pet, female, one with a shoe repair on 23 17 (9,5)
- 18 Blunt instrument for drinks at the club? (4,3)
- 20 Feverish sort of 1 gets a lot of credit (7)
- 21 Pooh's asinine friend cavorting round pole—not a pretty sight (7)
- 22 Come down face first, nearly sick with mad cow disease (6)
- 25 Cavort with saucy little morsel (5)

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